

**SERMON:** Genesis: The Beginning of the Gospel

October 21, 2018

**SERIES:** Living East of Eden

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Mark

**CONNECT** (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

**REVIEW** (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 4:1-26

**SERMON OUTLINE:**

- I. Exposing Sin's Secrecy.
- II. Living in a Fallen Culture.
- III. Trusting God's Prevailing Grace.

**GROW** (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Discuss what you think about why God accepted Abel's sacrifice but not Cain's. What do you think about the clues in the text which Pastor Mark used to suggest Abel offered his best but Cain was just going through the motions? Read Hebrews 11:4 to help the discussion.
2. From this story, what can we learn about how we approach God in worship and what we offer to God in worship?
3. Sin always hides itself. Pastor Mark asked: Do you know your crouching sins? Can you offer an honest answer to your group?
4. In Gen. 4 we see culture-making (agriculture, music, metal work), but it was tainted with sin. What things in our culture do you see as good? In what ways do you see sin affecting and twisting our culture?
5. There are two lines descendant from Eve, the line of Cain and the line of Seth. The line of Cain wanted to make a name for themselves (see Gen. 11:4), but the line of Seth wanted God's name to be great (Gen 4:26). The two live side-by-side together. Discuss what it looks to live as an alternate culture within our culture. In other words, what does it like for you to daily live to make God's name great and not your own (see Matthew 5:13-16)?
6. Do you understand that Jesus took the curse of Cain for you? He was a wanderer, he was killed (what Cain feared), and on the cross he was driven away from the presence of God. His blood cries out not for vengeance but for forgiveness (see Hebrews 12:24). How does the gospel of Jesus help you not seek a name for yourself but to live to make God's name famous?

**PRAY:** Honor and worship God for his creation work. Thank God for seeing you and delighting in you through Christ. Ask God to increase your trust in Him as the eternal Creator.