

STUDY GUIDE

GENESIS: Week 5 6.22.14

[set up]

Do you have a LifeHouse story or a story of how you or someone you know has experienced new life in Christ from this last week?

How have you encountered someone in life that was probably mad at God but took it out on others? Has Took it out on you?

Have you ever been guilty of being mad at God and taking it out on someone else?

[digging deeper]

This last weekend we taught on the account of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4. Review that chapter as needed for this time.

Three of the most common questions that arise with the account of Cain and Abel are:

1. What was Cain's mark? What are the options and why does it not really matter? Was the mark part of God's discipline or part of God's mercy?
2. Who was Cain afraid of since it only appears that there are 3 people at this time?
3. Who was Cain's wife and where did she come from?

What information is missing in the account that would help us see the answers at first glance? What is the obvious answer to the second and third questions and how do these verses help inform us? (Gen. 5:1-4; Gen. 20:12; Lev. 18:6)

For more information on these and other tough questions- Michael Houdmann offers a very good biblical online resource called "Got Questions.org". See this sample link <http://www.gotquestions.org/Cains-wife.html>

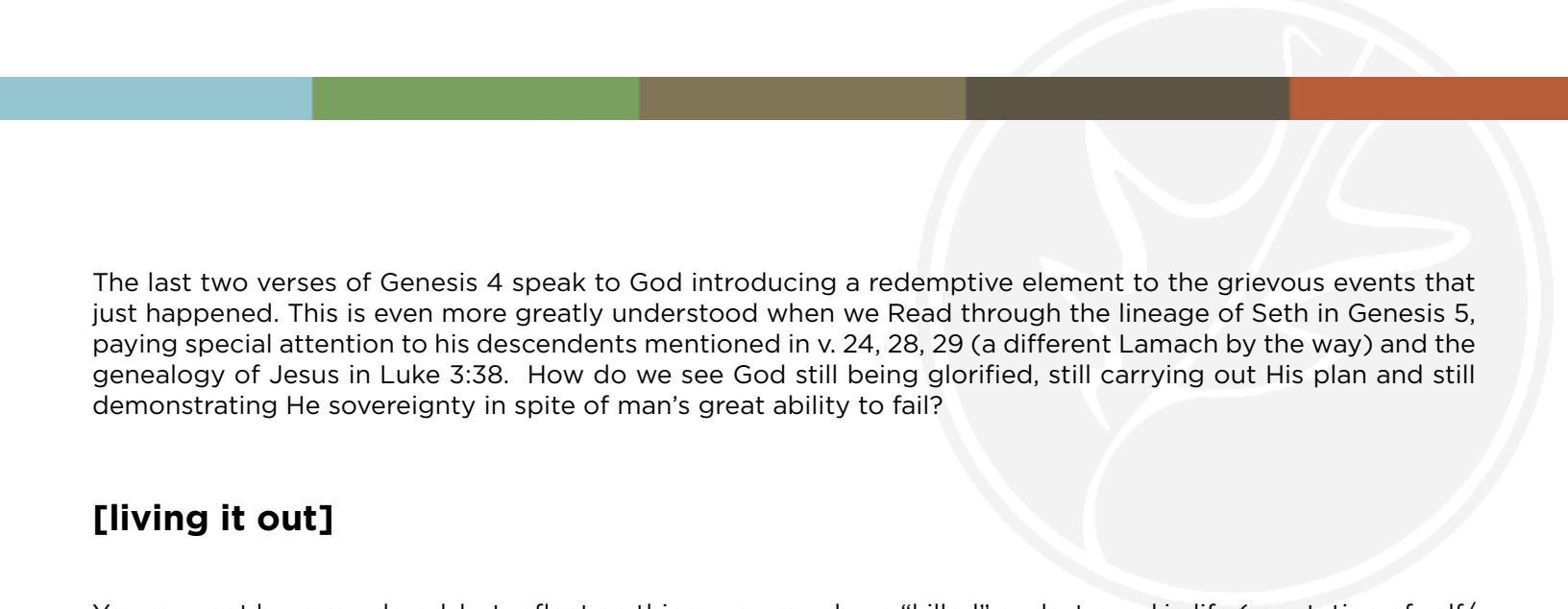
Read Matthew 5:21-22, 1 John 3:11-16 and James 2:10, 11. We are very aware that God has commanded us not to murder (Ex. 20:13). Although it is likely that we will get through life without murdering anyone, in the eyes of God how are we just as guilty as Cain in some ways?

God came to Cain in his place of sin and shame to confront but to care. He did the same with Adam and Eve. How have you seen God come to you and call to you when you are in sin or straying?

What do we learn about the love of God, the mercy of God and the justice of God from the account of Cain and Abel?

Referring back to the verses above, recent teachings on being a loving your neighbor and being a LifeHouse (Luke 10:27; Luke 10:30-37; Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 6:2) as well as any other verses that come to mind), how would we answer Cain's question of, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

At the beginning of this study I asked if you have encountered others people in life that were probably mad at God but took it out on others or you? Or if you have ever been guilty of being mad at God and taking it out on someone else? Read and internalize great instruction from related to this issue in Romans 12:14-21.



The last two verses of Genesis 4 speak to God introducing a redemptive element to the grievous events that just happened. This is even more greatly understood when we Read through the lineage of Seth in Genesis 5, paying special attention to his descendents mentioned in v. 24, 28, 29 (a different Lamech by the way) and the genealogy of Jesus in Luke 3:38. How do we see God still being glorified, still carrying out His plan and still demonstrating His sovereignty in spite of man's great ability to fail?

[living it out]

You may not have murdered, but reflect on things you may have “killed” or destroyed in life (reputation of self/others, relationships, trust, etc). How has God, through Christ, brought restoration, healing or forgiveness into your life in spite of those events?

God warned Cain to avoid the crouching sin at his door. What crouching sin is God warning you of right now in your life? What steps will you take to distance yourself from that temptation?

When God confronted Cain about his sin, he was resistant and unrepentant. Great consequences followed. Is there a recent sin or situation that God is calling you to come clean about? To humbly admit, confess and repent of? If so, are you willing to do that now? Does it involve someone else that you need to confess to or ask forgiveness of? Will you engage them within the next 24 hours?

When you heard the words “Am I my brother's keeper?” did God impress anyone on your heart that needed care, that you feel a calling to help care for? What's the plan to do so?

Genesis 4 closes with people calling upon the name of the Lord. Close this time with calling upon the name of the Lord, asking God to:

- Help you present your gifts and your life as an offering with the spirit of Abel
- help you take the steps opposite of Cain when it comes to sin, temptation and repentance
- To see and embrace the redemption that you provide through the introduction of “Seths” in your life, situations and people God uses for restoration and redemption.