

- **Who are your siblings?**

We are making our way through the story of Genesis 1-11. Focusing on how we got here and why God is on mission. It starts with creation; God creates a dynamic and flourishing cosmos. Last week we looked at what went wrong and it is important to notice that Genesis does not talk about one event, but a downward spiral. After the garden incident, Adam and Eve are banished from Eden and have two children, Cain is the oldest and Abel is the youngest. The Adam and Eve story is about humanity and God. The challenge of humans is to live in God's world in God's way. The Cain and Abel story will be about humanity living with each other

**We hear the Bible differently and beautifully when it is read in a community of people. As a group, read Genesis 4:1-16.**

- **What was something from the message that you want to remember?**

**Genesis 4:2-5**

*Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. **The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.** So, Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.*

- **Why did God accept Abel's offering but not Cain's?**
- **Jealousy can often erupt in the face of our failure and the success of others. Have you ever found yourself angry that God has blessed another while you have suffered?**

**Genesis 4:6-7**

*Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? **But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.**"*

Scott mentioned that this may be one of the most important verses for understanding sin in the Bible. God recognizes Cain's emotions as well as his choice of how to handle them. The Old Testament words for sin can mean error, willful violation, or deficiency. Doing something

humanity was not created to do. Cain has a choice to sin or not, but sin is more than a choice. It's a power.

- **How do you describe sin?**
- **Does this change how you look at sin?**
- **How does God describe sin? Is sin actually a beast crouching at the door?**
- **What is God trying to communicate to Cain by speaking about sin in this way?**

#### **Genesis 4:8**

*Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, **Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.***

Sin rules Cain's life and as a result, he murders his brother Abel.

#### **Genesis 4:9**

*Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. **"Am I my brother's keeper?"***

Judaism and Christianity say widows, orphans, and poor are most favored. And, as the people of God we are to be their keepers and prioritize them. Faith is not just between me and God, but also between me and you. Cain's story is meant to challenge the narrative of individualism that existed in ancient religion and is dominant in modern American Christianity

- **What is the questions "Am I my brother's keeper?" really asking?**
- **Think about whose story you need to hear. How will you act upon this?**

---

#### **PRAY FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR GROUP**

How does this message lead you to pray?

#### **PRAY FOR OUR OUTREACH PARTNERS**

Pray for FCCHB local nonprofit partner, Be Well, as they serve the City of Huntington Beach alongside the HBPD. Be Well responds to mental health crisis calls and calls for assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness. Thank God for the resources our city is providing. Ask God for more favor for organizations like Be Well to continue to be able to make an impact.