

Connect Group Notes

Sermon: The Beginning of Persecution

Reading: Genesis 4:1-16

Date: 2nd February 2025 (AM)

Introduction

Genesis is a book of beginnings. In these first chapters of the Bible we see the foundations laid for how we understand some of the fundamental questions in life. We also see Christ at work, from the beginning of the universe.

Bible Study

[Leaders, no questions suit every small group. Please adapt them to your own group]

Read Genesis 4:1-16

Here is a quick template that might take you through some of the themes from Sunday's sermon. You are free to adapt/edit/re-write as you'd like! I suggest first couple of questions are a big group discussion, then some small group work and then back together for the case-studies at the end.

1. Describe life outside of Eden – what are some of the main hallmarks?
2. Listen/watch a minute or so of this music video (used on Sunday) – how does this help set the tone for Genesis 4? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3aamRPsMGY>
3. Split the group in two and give pen and paper to each group. One group looks out for God's grace in the passage... the other group looks for Cain's ongoing response of hostility. Prepare to make a list of the ways in which you see both faith and hostility coming to light... When both groups are ready and understand the take ask someone to read Genesis 4:1-16 aloud and groups can make notes... then give groups 2-3 mins to chat together before feeding back.
4. Hebrews 12:23-24 says: You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. In pairs try and put into your own words why Jesus' blood speaks a better word than Abel.
5. Case study: Alexander sometimes feel he has to 'top-up' Jesus' death and resurrection by his actions... how could Abel in Genesis 4 be a template to him?
6. Case study: Rhianna still feels very guilty for her behaviour prior to coming to Christ – and for some of the things she did even as a Christian – how does Hebrews 12:23-24 speak to her?
7. What in Genesis 4 changes your approach to God? Why not pray about some of those things you've thought about...