

*family* matters







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## Genesis 4:1-14 (NLT)

“<sup>1</sup> Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the Lord’s help, I have produced a man!” <sup>2</sup> Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground.

## Genesis 4:1-14 (NLT)

“<sup>3</sup> When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, <sup>5</sup> but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

## Genesis 4:1-14 (NLT)

“<sup>6</sup> “Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? <sup>7</sup> You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”



## Genesis 4:1-14 (NLT)

“<sup>8</sup> One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him. <sup>9</sup> Afterward the Lord asked Cain,

“Where is your brother? Where is Abel?” “I don’t know,” Cain responded.

“Am I my brother’s guardian?”

## Genesis 4:1-14 (NLT)

“<sup>10</sup> But the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! <sup>11</sup> Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother’s blood. <sup>12</sup> No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”



## **Genesis 4:1-14 (NLT)**

“<sup>13</sup> Cain replied to the Lord, “My punishment is too great for me to bear!

<sup>14</sup> You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!”

# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- Cain and Abel
  - God gives us a choice to be motivated by a relationship with him or to be motivated by sin



# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- Cain and Abel
  - God does not accept Cain or his offering
  - God accepts Abel & his offering
  - Cain is angry
  - Cain is dejected

# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- Dejected Navel Gazing
  - Focuses on how we feel
  - Everything done & said is filtered through me
  - Focuses on what is done TO you



# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- Dejected Navel Gazing
  - Stemming from perceived favoritism
  - Cain believes Abel is favored

# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- God offers warning
  - “Watch out! Sin is...eager to control you!”
- God offers alternative
  - “You will be accepted if you do what is right.”



# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- Relationship With Family
  - Often expect more out of family
  - We offer less grace because we're around them more
  - Feel “they should know” as justification

# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- Cain's Choice
  - Motivation for anger is sin
  - Sin will control you
  - Lingering anger turns into outward sin
  - Cain does not take responsibility



# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- God Challenged Cain
  - To be motivated by acceptance by God
  - Not to be give in to sin's control

# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- Feelings of hurt and anger
  - We choose to either give them a place in our life
  - Will the nest/be planted for the long term?
  - Will we brush them away and move on?

# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

Although we can laugh at a story

Of a couple of brothers under 10

Getting in a fight over the top bunk

It isn't quite as cute or funny if they

were adults

## **Matthew 5:21-22a (NLT)**

“<sup>21</sup> You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup> But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!”



# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- We have a choice in our response
  - Motivated by our relationship with God
  - Take our own path, controlled by sin

# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- Our response
  - The power of sin to control us was nailed to the cross with Jesus and put to death
  - Sin only has power we give it if we are a follower of Christ

# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

- What would God's way look like
  - In your family?
  - In your church?
  - In your neighborhood?
  - In your community?

# Family Matters: Sibling Rivalry

Make choices motivated by this truth:

No one has done anything TO you

That cannot be eclipsed

By what Jesus Christ

has done FOR you

Even family



*family* matters

