

Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Group Guide | September 14

Open with prayer and address current events in our nation (15 minutes).

Begin your time together as a group with a word of prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your time together. Once finished, ask the following questions to help your group address the “elephant in the room” related to recent events in our country.

Note: The goal with talking about these things isn't to argue with one another. Hopefully no one will be tempted to do so. The goal is to check in with one another and process and pray!

- What was your immediate reaction when you heard about Charlie Kirk and Iryna Zarutka's death? How has it affected you personally or emotionally this week?
- How are you doing in light of the recent violent attacks that have happened? How are you processing that news? Those videos?
- Kirk was a vocal Christian. What hope does the gospel offer in moments like this (e.g., John 11:25-26: “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die”)?

Briefly summarize and then read Genesis 4:1-12 (10 minutes).

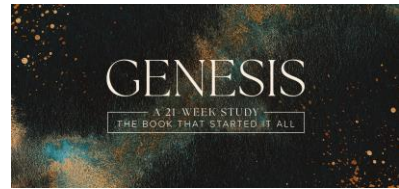
Briefly summarize Genesis 4:1-8 (or read key verses aloud). Highlight the key moments: Cain's Heart (Genesis 4:3-5), God's Warning Against Sin (Genesis 4:6-7), Sin's Impact (Genesis 4:8), the Consequences of Sin (Genesis 4:9-12), and the Ripple Effect of Sin (Genesis 4:10-12).

Assign group members to read the following verses aloud:

- Genesis 4:1-5
- Genesis 4:6-8
- Genesis 4:9-12

As a group, reflect on these questions (35 minutes).

- What stood out or challenged you from Dan's sermon on Sunday?

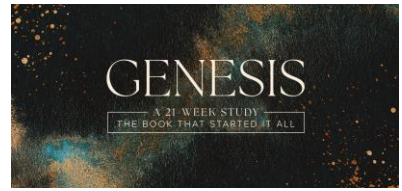


- In his sermon on Sunday, Dan mentioned how sin isn't just "doing something wrong," it's a failure of worship (i.e. it's "diminished worship"). How do you see this at play in the story of Cain and Abel? How has a failure of true worship played a role in the sin that has been present in your own life?
- What is your reaction when sin is unveiled in your life? Do you think you tend to be defensive like Cain or do you humbly receive correction? Do you ever deny it? Explain.
 - Follow-up: How do you discern whether you're in the wrong when someone admonishes you? What if you disagree? Can you think of a time when this kind of thing happened to you (i.e. you were in error and had to humbly submit to the correction of someone else even when you didn't want to)? Explain.
- In this Scripture, God tells Cain that, regarding his sin, he must "rule over it." Speaking on this sentence, Dan talked about how "Through this one sentence we learn the double-edge truth: We should neither underestimate the power of sin (since it desires to devour us) nor overestimate the power of sin (since with God's help, we can rule over it.)" When it comes to your own life, do you tend to underestimate sin or overestimate sin? Explain.
 - Follow-up: Why is it important not to underestimate sin? Why is it important not to overestimate sin?
 - Another follow-up: How does Christ's work on the cross parlay with this idea of ruling over sin (see Romans 6:1-14 for some insight on this)?
- God tells Cain that Abel's blood "cries out" from the ground, and Cain faces consequences that affect his relationship with the land and others. How have you seen the consequences of sin extend beyond the immediate act to affect others in your life? What does this teach you about the broader impact of your choices on your community or family?
- How has your sin, as Dan talked about, left you desperate for God? How does the brokenness and evil in our world leave you desperate for God?
- Where do you feel personally challenged as a result of this message on sin and how it impact ourselves and our relationships? Share your thoughts with your group.

Transition to with prayer for one another (5 minutes).

As you end your group time, share your prayer requests. Have someone record them and send them out to everyone. Then, finish by having someone pray over your group.

Finish by spending time praying for our nation (15 minutes).



This past week, our nation watched in horror as Charlie Kirk, Iryna Zarutskya, and others had their lives taken from them. These senseless killings showcase that there is so much evil and brokenness in our world. Take a few moments to lift our nation in prayer. Spend time seeking God on behalf of our country. Pray that people would come to know the reality of Christ and that God would help us live lives that honor Him!