

Genesis

The study of the beginning

Lesson #5

Return Church

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

July 1, 2026

Genesis

A study of the beginning

- Lesson #1 – The Creation
- Lesson #2 – We were made for relationships
- Lesson #3 – We were made for stewardship
- Lesson #4 – Paradise lost
- **Lesson #5 – East of Eden**
- Lesson #6 – The Flood

East of Eden

East of Eden

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, I have acquired a man from the Lord. Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it. Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, Where *is* Abel your brother? He said, I do not know. *Am* I my brother's keeper? And He said, What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.....Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the **east of Eden**. **Genesis 4:1-10,16 NKJV**

East of Eden

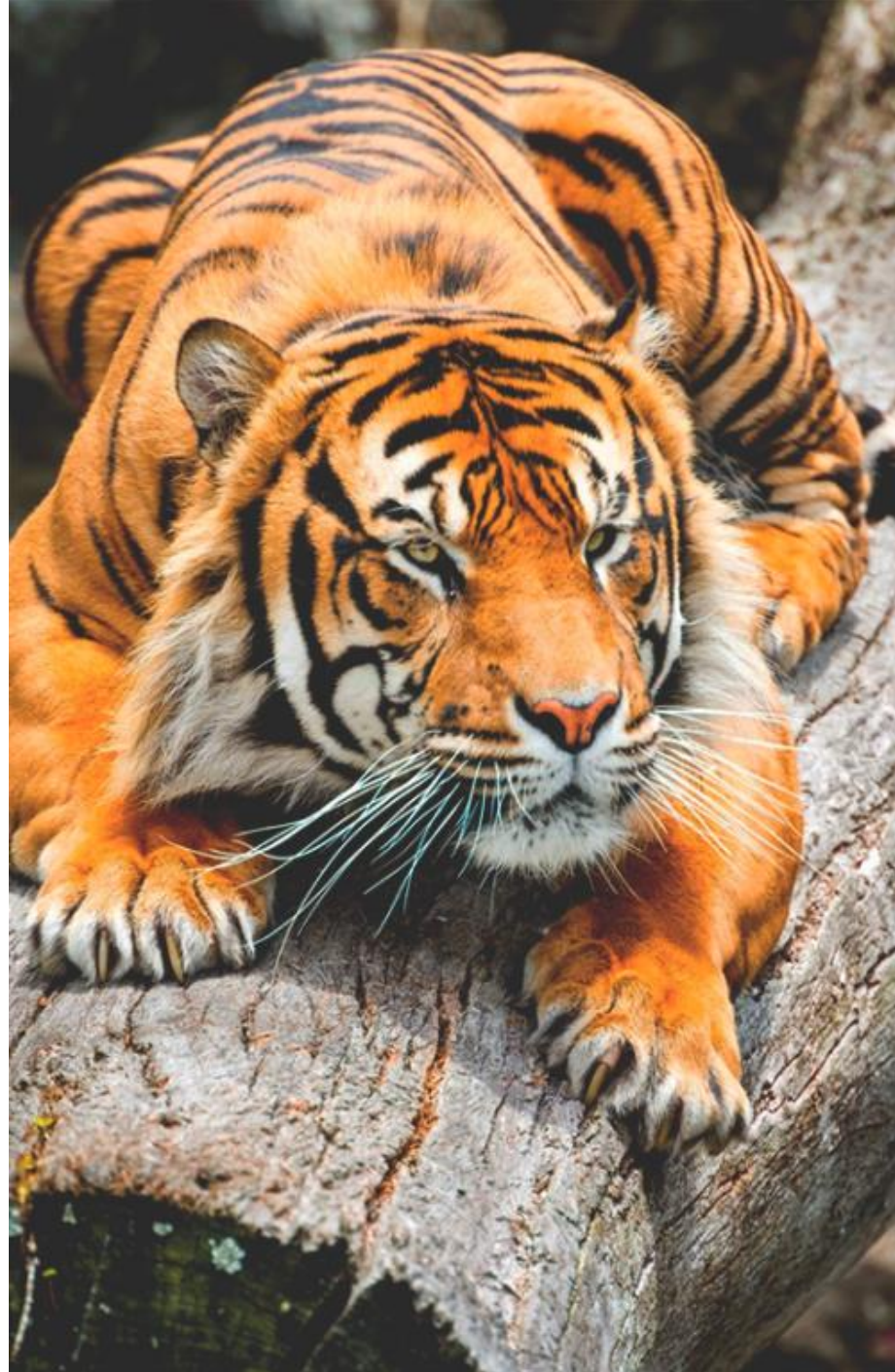
- Bible is a single story telling us what is wrong with the human race, what God does about it, and how it is going to turn out in the end.
- We learned last week the thing that is horribly wrong with the human race is this thing called original sin. We are all born with a sinful nature.
- We learned that self-centeredness or putting ourselves in the place of God is the essence of sin.
- In our text today, we see a brilliant and a gripping narrative of a brother killing his brother.
- This is the first case study of how humans behave East of Eden.
- Cain and Abel lived East of Eden; this is life outside of paradise.
- East of Eden is what life looks like in a fallen world.

Sin is like a crouching tiger

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 4:7 NLT**

Sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it. **Genesis 4:7 NIV**

- This is the first place in the Bible that speaks of sin.
- This is a remarkable image. Sin is personified as a tiger crouching in the shadows, hiding, ready to pounce on you and kill you.
- Sin has a deadly life of its own.
- If you commit sin, it is not over, because it is not just an action, it becomes a presence, and it takes shape, and stays with you and will take you down.



Sin will do you

- We can start this thought by talking about a bad habit. Things we do become easier-and-easier to do as we continue to do them.
- The strength and the power of the sin becomes stronger-and-stronger the more we do it.
- What starts off as a seemingly innocent choice, can turn into something that controls and destroys your life.
- Just a little anger all began with an offense, then a thought that grows. If you don't nip it in the bud, it can become a murderous rage.
- When you sin, it doesn't just go away, it becomes a presence in your life. **You start by doing sin, but then it will do you.**
- If you can't forgive somebody, anybody, for any reason, your heart will become hardened, which will in turn poison all of your relationships going forward. You will wind up a grumpy lonely old person with no friends.

A crouching tiger

- God came to Adam, what have you done? My wife made me do it. He threw Eve under the bus to justify himself.
- God comes to Cain, where is Abel your brother? “Am I my brother’s keeper”? He is saying, do you actually think I am supposed to keep tabs on him. You can see the hardening of his heart.
- Sin is not just one act. It is a crouching tiger.
- When you sin, that sin becomes a presence in your life and it will take shape, and if not dealt with, it will take you down. Two things to know about sin.
- Your sin will find you out, and you will reap what you sow.

And be sure your sin will find you out. ***Numbers 32:23 NKJV***

You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. ***Galatians 6:7-8 NLT***

Crouching, hidden sins

- If you have a cancerous tumor, you don't say, I will deal with it one day down the road, when I am not so busy. No, you stop everything and get it scheduled immediately. So should sin should be dealt with immediately.
- Everybody knows you have a problem when it when it becomes murder, but can you see sin in its beginnings, as a little unforgiveness?
- The idea of sin crouching at the door show us that sin is a presence in your life, and also, sin hides from you.
- The tiger is hidden; you can't see him. If you don't see him soon, you will die.
- What are the character flaws in your life that can ruin you, what are the flaws you will least admit? Crouching sins, hidden sins?
- What are the crouching hidden sins in your life that you rationalize?
- Do you have a list, probably not, because sin is subtle, it is hidden.
- Have you mastered it or has it mastered you?

Hidden sins presents themselves as virtues

- You are angry, you call it righteous indignation.
- You have a grudge, you call it moral outrage.
- You are a workaholic, you say, I am just productive.
- You are materialistic, you say you are successful.
- You are proud and arrogant, you call it healthy self esteem.
- You are vain but you call it good grooming.
- You are stingy but you say you are prudent.
- You are greedy, but you say I am frugal.
- You are ruthless, but you say I'm a good businessman.
- You are flirting and lustful, you say you are showing the love of Jesus to her.
- You are totally self-centered, or self-absorbed, but you say you have to love yourself before you can love others.

It could start with just a smile

- Sin could begin with just a smile.
- Then that grows to a flirtation. Then a lust.
- Continue playing with that, and it will lead to a touch.
- Then a kiss.
- Then you sleep with that person.
- You now want to stop but you can't.
- You ask for forgiveness, you cry and repent, then you do it again, and again.
- You try to break it off, but you can't. You keep going back to it.
- It eventually destroys your family, your marriage.
- You lose everything. Now you are broke, lonely, bitter and angry.
- **You start by doing sin, but in the end sin does you.**

East of Eden

- In the early stages of addiction, you actually have some control, but when you give in to it, sin has a power over you.
- You reach a place where you are out of control. The addiction now controls you. You lose your job, then all of your money, you lose your relationships, you lose your home. Now you are on the street, with nobody but your drugs.
- The same holds true of greed, selfishness, self-pity and pride. They all can take you over and control you.
- Sin creates a force, it takes shape, it wants to have you, you give in to dishonesty one time, now you have created something in your life that will be hard to ever change.
- Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ***1 Corinthians 5:6 NKJV***
- If you do sin, it will eventually do you. Sin has a kind of power and a presence.
- It starts small as a little choice, then as it grows, it takes you over.
- Do you know your crouching sins, the hidden but dangerous things that can destroy you, that you might not think are bad things right now.
- Sin is dangerous, powerful, hidden. All of mankind has to deal with this.
- This is what life is like; east of Eden.

Revival

- We all want a revival at Return.
- We all want revival in our own lives.
- It will start when the Christians come to the altar and begin to repent.
- Don't wait on the sinners to repent, God is wanting you.
- If my people, who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray.
- That will only happen when we begin to see ourselves the way we really are.
- Last Sunday could be the beginnings of that.
- We must actually see our sins, not our brothers and sisters.
- Believers, Christians, must confess, repent, and call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.
- That's how revival will come.

My people

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. **//**
Chronicles 7:14 NKJV

- **Who:** My people, called by My name.
- **What do we need to do?** Humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, turn from our wicked ways.
- **What God promises to do:** Hear from heaven, forgive our sin, heal our land.

Abel accepted, Cain rejected

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. **Genesis 4:2-5 NLT**

- Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground.
- Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock. He gave God his best. He didn't wait around to see if he would have more calves, he gave God his firstborn.
- Abel and his offering are accepted by God, and Cain and his offering are rejected by God.

Cain and Abel

- What is the difference between Abel and Cain?
- They both worked hard, they both believed in God, they both offered sacrifices or offerings to God.
- You don't see one of them boozing it up and running with prostitutes, the other one going to church. Or one working hard and the other living off welfare?
- No, one is a farmer and grows crops, and one is a rancher and raises animals.
- They both are seeking God. They both bring God offerings.
- Cain and Abel look the same on the outside, but there is something very wrong with Cains heart.

Cain wasn't right with God

- Cain wasn't rejected because of his offering, but his offering was rejected because of Cain's heart; his heart simply wasn't right with God.
- Sitting in a church on Sunday's doesn't make you a Christian anymore than sitting in a garage makes you a car.

In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. ***1 John 3:10-12 NKJV***

Abel's offering was accepted because of His faith

- God showed favor to Abel but not to Cain.
- It is subtle, it is supposed to be, it is a matter of the heart.
- Cain brought fruits of the soil for his offering, he brought the fruit of the crops that he raised.
- Able brought an animal and sacrificed it. He shed blood looking forward to the cross. He knew God would have to save him, he couldn't save himself.

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. **Hebrews 11:4 NIV**

It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. **Hebrews 11:4 NLT**

Faith

- Abel made his offering in faith, but Cain did not.
- But Cain believed God existed, what is going on here?
- They both believed in God. Cain spoke with God.
- Most people think they escape sin by being good, helping the poor, go to church, give their money. They have a head knowledge of Jesus.
- Like Abel, we must have faith in the grace of God, faith in the gospel or faith in a savior. We can't save ourselves.
- Both Cain and Abel knew from their parents the prophecy from Genesis 3:15. we are not sure what all God had revealed to them, but we are sure that Adam and Eve knew this prophecy.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. **Genesis 3:15 NKJV**

Saved by grace

- They probably didn't understand the sacrificial system of the Old Testament law, but we can assume they knew that they needed the grace of God to save them.
- There are only 2 reasons to give God an offering.
 - One is in gratitude in response to salvation,
 - The other reason as a means of salvation, as a way to get God to bless you to reward you to take you to heaven.
- Cain and Abel offered their sacrifices in two very different ways. Abel was offering in response to God's grace.
- Cain was offering trying to get God to do things for him. He wanted God to bless him, he thought God owed him.
- Remember the Elder Brother got mad at the prodigal son, and angry with the Father for showing him mercy. Cain was mad at Abel and mad at God.
- Are you are mad at God? Are you are a Pharisee, trusting in your good works to get God to accept you?



The Pharisee & the tax collector

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income. But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner. I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. ***Luke 18:9-14 NLT***

The thief on the cross

Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left..... One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it! But the other criminal protested, Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong. Then he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom. And Jesus replied, I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise. ***Luke 23:32-33, 39-43 NLT***

2 very different hearts

Religion

- Pharisee
- Big brother
- The rich young ruler
- Cain
- Trusting in yourself to save you
- Trying to be good and do good to earn your way to heaven.
- Works
- It is all about what you do.

Relationship

- Tax collector (Publican)
- The prodigal son
- Zacchaeus
- Abel
- Trusting in God to save you
- Confessing sin and calling upon the name of Jesus.
- Grace
- It is all about what Jesus did.

Cain was angry

- Able was putting his trust in God, in response to salvation.
- If you believe you are a sinner saved by grace, God has saved you in spite of your merits, not because of them.
- But if you are a Pharisee then you think God owes you, you are trying put God in your debt.
- When God doesn't let your life go the way you think it should go, you get upset at God, because you believe that God actually owes you.
- Cain is so upset that he is not only angry at Abel but also angry at God.
- Are you always mad that people, do you have an anger problem?
- Cain's hate Able's, Abel's don't hate Cain's. Where is your hearts fundamental trust

Cain, Balaam & Korah

What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps of Cain, who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for money. And like Korah, they perish in their rebellion. ***Jude 1:11 NLT***

Here Cain is grouped together with Balaam and Korah.

- Balaam was the greedy lying false prophet.
- Korah brought 250 men, and they rebelled against and defied Moses, and God opened the earth to swallow them.

All 3 of these guys simply had hearts that were not right with God.

God the wonderful counsellor

- Here God says, where is your brother Abel? God is not looking for information, he already knows, he is trying to get him to understand his heart.
- God doesn't show up to Cain and say, how dare you, I will have mercy on who ever I want to have mercy on.
- No, God comes gently to him and says, your face has fallen, you are depressed, God is counselling a depressed man.
- Many people think that the God of the New Testament is the God of love, but the God of the Old Testament is the God of fire and brimstone.
- No, here we see God in Genesis 4, as a wonderful counsellor full of grace.
- He comes as soon as Cain starts to spiral down.
- Cain's face fell, this means he was depressed. Then the Lord comes to Cain, God is always there, calling, reaching out to us, trying to help us.

Abel's blood cries out for justice

The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. **Genesis 4:10 NKJV**

- Abel's blood was crying for justice. Abel's blood was saying:
- This is not right, Cain killed me because he hated me, he was jealous, I was innocent. I demand justice.
- God is a God of justice. When injustice is done, there is an outcry.
- God can't just let sin go, he is a just God, a God of Justice.

And the Lord said, Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; **Genesis 18:20-21 NKJV**

God has 2 equal sides

Love

- Grace
- Mercy
- Forgiveness
- Gives
- Lamb
- He loves the sinner

Judgement

- Truth
- Justice
- Holiness
- Restrains
- Lion
- He hates the sin

Jesus's blood cries out for justice

To Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ***Hebrews 12:24 NIV***

- Abel's blood was crying for justice, but so was Jesus's.
- Jesus was the ultimate Abel, the only one that was truly innocent.
- Jesus blood cries out for justice also. But Jesus was our substitute.
- His blood cries out for justice for me, for you.
- I demand justice for all of those that trust in Me. Justice for those that have made me their savior.

He is faithful and just

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and just** to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. *1 John 1:8-10 NKJV*

- I sin, so I ask God for his forgiveness, but then I sin again, so I ask God over-and-over to forgive me.
- I start to think, when will God get enough of me sinning, and say I have had it, that's enough, no more? I am not going to continue to forgive him over-and-over again.
- Here the Bible says He is faithful and just.
- Do you realize how secure you are in the love of God?
- Jesus' blood is crying out for justice. Justice for me and you.

The law of God demands justice

- Jesus standing before the throne of God, at the right hand of the Father interceding for you and me.
- Jesus is not asking for mercy. He is not saying, please be merciful to Bill, he is really trying hard, after all he really works hard to help people, can you please just give him another chance?
- No, He is not asking for mercy, He is demanding justice.
- Your law demands justice.
- Justice demands that you never condemn my brothers and sisters that put their trust in me, because I have already paid for their sins in full.
- I lived a perfect life, I fulfilled the law perfectly, and I then died in their place. I became sin, I nailed sin to the cross. So, the penalty for their sins has been paid.
- You can't condemn them, because that would be two payments for the same sin, that would be unjust. God is faithful and just.

Jesus's blood cries out for justice

- The blood of Jesus cries out for our justice.
- Do you really know that you are secure in his love?
- The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness, and He clothes us in His righteousness, spend the rest of your life thinking about and learning what that means.
- There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.
- Do you trust in Jesus? His blood was shed for you.
- We should have a certainty, that will make us a sweet Abel and not an angry Cain.
- Trust in the greater Abel, His blood was shed for you and His blood cries out for justice for you.