

## SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 4:1-10

4 Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.” 2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. 4 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, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 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.”

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.

9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

10 The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR SMALL GROUPS, FRIEND GROUPS & HOUSEHOLDS:

1. **Read the verses above.** What stands out to you and why? What questions does this passage raise in your mind? (Feel free to wrestle with these questions together)
2. Trace Cain’s feelings, words and actions through this story. What is happening inside of him? In what ways is sin crouching at his door? What opportunities does Cain have to “rule over it”?
3. Trace God’s words and actions through this story. What do you make of His posture towards Cain? What does this reveal about God?
4. In what ways can you identify with Cain? Explain. How are you responding to God’s invitation and warning in verse 7?
5. How can we help each other in our battle against temptation and sin?