



GENESIS GROUP GUIDE

SCRIPTURE DEVOTION | GEN. 4

Last week, we looked at the curses, consequences, and care God gives in response to man's sin in Genesis 3:14-24. This week we will examine the swift and expansive nature of sin as it works itself out in man. We will see how sin multiplies, does not remain with us, and is seen and responded to by God.

GENERAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 4 individually or aloud giving a few minutes for reflection & prayer.

- What does this text say about God?
 - How would you describe God after reading this passage? What do you learn about God's character and nature? How does this passage relate to how society defines God?
- What does this text say about people?
 - What do you learn about people's character and nature? How does this compare to what society says or believes about people?
- What does this text say about how we should live in light of what he has done?
 - What should I change in my life based on what I've read? Should I be praying about anything? Do I need to confess anything? Are there any promises I need to take hold of? What truths do I need to receive?

TEXT-BASED ONE ANOTHERING QUESTIONS

This time for group members to practice confession, repentance, accountability, biblical encouragement, etc. with the help of the Holy Spirit through his word.

- In Genesis 4 we learn several important realities about the nature of sin. Namely, we see that sin, passed down into the human heart is always growing, always seeking to devour us, always leads to death, and never remains just with us.
 - Why do you think humans have a tendency to minimize the realities of sin as they think about their own sin issues?
 - It has been said that we don't "struggle" with sin, rather, the reality is we have given ourselves over to it and what we struggle with is the dissonance or discomfort that that creates mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? If this statement is true, how do you think a believer should respond when they are "struggling" with sin.
 - Romans 6:6-7 says, "We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin." How does knowing that you are no longer enslaved to sin but free in Christ, help you think about current areas of temptation or sin? If you find yourself walking in the same sin issues often, how does this verse offer hope? What do you think that hope at work in you looks like?
 - Is there any area of your life that you think you have treated as if these realities of sin are not true or at least not as sure? Spend time (perhaps as men & women separately) confessing these areas of sin to one another and praying over one another.
- In Genesis 4 we see a picture, in both Cain and Lamech, of the sin of unrighteous anger.
 - Read Matthew 3:21-22 & 1 John 3:12-15 together. These verses both seem to equate unrighteous anger and hatred to murder. Why do you think that is?
 - The definition of hate is, "intense hostility and aversion usually deriving from fear, anger, or sense of injury."
 - Being careful & prayerful against gossip, is there anyone in your personal life (spouse, friend, co-worker, boss, etc.), a group of people (organizations, political groups, etc.), someone in culture (political figures, leaders, celebrities, etc.), that you feel unrighteous anger or hatred toward?
 - Knowing this is sin, and the realities of sin listed above, how should a believer respond to this revelation? (Answer: repentance (God & others), asking for forgiveness (when wise & able with others)
 - Spend time praying over one another for the gift of repentance.

- Lastly, in Genesis 4, this chapter ends with hope. God provides a new line of Adam's descendants, through his son Seth, maintaining the line from Adam to the long-hoped-for snake-crusher. The chapter ends by stating, "At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord."
 - As you think about your areas of temptation and sin, what do you think calling on the name of the Lord in these areas would look like?
 - How does knowing that Jesus has freed you from sin and is now interceding on your behalf today encourage you to put sin to death?

MISSION

Evangelism

We want to be intentional in our everyday lives to have gospel conversations with people that don't know Jesus. These people God has placed in our path are not projects, but friends. Friends we long to see have the hope and joy of Christ! Have each group member choose one person they are going to pray for and initiate conversations with about Jesus. Each week, follow up:

- Were they able to share the gospel with them, encourage them, or pray with them this week?
- How can the group pray for the group member? How can the group pray for the person they are walking with?
- What is one next step they can take with this person? Can they ask them to church? To come to community group? Read the Bible together? Etc.

Missions

We want to be mindful and prayerful for the work the Lord is doing in the world. There are tons of ways you can encourage your group members to engage in God's work around the world. Below are some ideas for this week:

- Read a recent update from your group's missionary/missionary family and pray for them.
- Spend time as a group praying for Ukraine and Russia and the conflict there. Pray for the churches in both countries. Check out this [Instagram post](#) for helpful prayer points.

PRAYER

- Check in on life (ex. relationship with Christ (prayer & word), their marriages/singleness, children, etc.) to discover prayer needs.
- Spend time in confession & prayer for those who have shared areas of disbelief, wrong beliefs, sin, etc. during discussion time.
- Spend time as a group praying for Ukraine and Russia and the conflict there. Pray for the churches in both countries. Check out this [Instagram post](#) for helpful prayer points.
- If you have more time or separate time for men & women choose 1-2 questions on the following page for accountability time or create your own.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Knowing the members of your group, and having heard about their week, choose 1-2 questions for your time of confession, encouragement, & prayer. We have gathered these questions from various resources, so feel free to jump around this document or come up with your own questions to best serve your group.

- Have you been a testimony this week to the greatness of Jesus Christ with both your words and actions?
- Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate thoughts about someone who is not your spouse this week?
- Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings this week, or coveted something that does not belong to you?
- Have you been honoring, understanding and generous in your important relationships this past week?
- Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind their back or face-to-face?
- Have you given in to an addictive behavior this week? Explain.
- Have you continued to remain angry toward another?
- Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
- Did you finish your reading this week and hear from the Lord? What are you going to do about it?
- Did you spend significant time with God through His Word, prayer, quiet time, devotions, and other spiritual disciplines? How consistent? Is He your driving force?
- What blocks your growth in Christ? What blocks growth, in your other relationships, from becoming more mature and effectual?
- Have you faithfully served the Lord, His people, and the lost?
- Did you go and participate in church activities and worship this week? How so? Why not?
- Have you made your family a priority? What noteworthy activity or deed did you do for your spouse and/or family?
- How have you struggled with sin? What are the sins that have weighed down your walk with God this week?
- What did you do to enhance your relationship with your spouse/friends? What can you do to make that relationship better?
- In what ways has God blessed you this week? How have you shared your blessings?
- What disappointments did you face? Did they consume your thoughts? What did you do about it? What can you learn?
- Have you committed any sexual sin? Did you look at someone lustfully? Have you been alone in a compromising situation? Have you been flirtatious? Have you struggled with pornography or "romance novels?" Have you exposed yourself to any sexually oriented material? Did you put yourself in a situation with anyone that could appear to be compromising, even though it may not have been?
- Have you shared your faith? In what ways? How can you improve? Have you had an opportunity to share with a non-Christian?
- How well are you handling your finances right now? Have your financial dealings been questionable?
- Have you been trustworthy? Have you lied? Stolen? Cheated? Been dishonest or manipulative? Have you elevated yourself over another for your own personal agenda? What about your language and attitude?
- Have you been prideful? Have you been guilty of gossip or anger? Slandered? Shown indifference? Been greedy? Not controlled your tongue?
- Have you demonstrated a servant's heart? How so? What have you done for someone else this week?
- Did you struggle with a disappointment this week? How did you handle it?
- Have you respected and treated your classmates, co-workers and peers graciously by showing them compassion and the love of God in your words and deeds? What can you do to enhance your relationships here?
- How is your level of character, according to the comparison of Gal. 5:22-23 versus Gal. 5:19-21?
- How did you practice joy this week? Have you had a thankful attitude toward God? Have you struggled with anger toward God? How so? What can you do about it?
- Have you taken care of the temple of the Holy Spirit with rest, sleep, exercise, healthy eating, etc? What about addictions, gluttony, or substance abuse?
- Have you been honest while answering these questions? If not, how so? If not, why?
- How can we support you as a group?