

SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ☀️ Cain offered sacrifices and displayed outward worship, but it was laced with unbelief and self-will. The fact that people attend religious meetings and participate in church activities is no proof that they're true believers. It's possible to have "as form of godliness" but never experience its saving power (2Tim. 3:5). God says that it is possible for "people to come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Isaiah 29:13). Have you ever performed empty worship? Have you ever sung with a distant heart or prayed with a hypocritical life? God doesn't accept empty worship. How can you work towards authentic worship this week?
- ☀️ Why is anger such a dangerous emotion? How did anger infect Cain's life? Read what Jesus teaches about anger in (Matt. 5:21-26). Some people shrug off anger saying, "That's just what happens when people upset me." Or they say, "I just blow up and then I'm fine." How do those excuses jive with God's view of anger? Do you struggle with sinful anger towards someone (maybe your spouse, your kids, your parents, a boss or co-worker)? Perhaps you should work on memorizing (Eph. 4:31-32) this week, seeking to replace anger with kindness and tenderheartedness.
- ☀️ God spoke to Cain but he didn't like what he heard. He intentionally ignored God's guidance. How do you respond if you don't like what you hear from God? Describe a time when you refused to listen to God. Describe a time when you obeyed his voice. Compare and contrast the results.
- ☀️ How did God try to help Cain after his offering was rejected? What does this tell us about our God? We know that Cain got angry and disregarded God's warning, but what should he have done? What should you do when the Lord corrects you?
- ☀️ The story of Cain teaches an important link between our relationship with God and our relationship with our brother. An angry, unforgiving spirit toward a brother hinders worship and destroys our fellowship with God. How does (1 John 2:9; 3:11-12; 4:20) help emphasize this point? Do you have any relational issue between you and another person that is presently hindering your fellowship with God? Perhaps you need to take care of things today.
- ☀️ Reflect on Cain's curse for a moment. He was banished to life as a vagabond (one who has no home), a fugitive (one who is running from home), and a stranger (one who is away from home). How is modern life without God like Cain's situation?
- ☀️ We can understand things about God in the account of Cain and Abel. Look up the following verses and describe what aspects of God's character are displayed (Gen. 4:5, 6-7, 10-12, 15).