

COMPASS Lesson for Week 3 -- Genesis 4

Read the words defined to the right, find them in the Word Search, then check them off.

V E N G E A N C E R L R Y
E M B A D A M Y V E Y B B
V C R O U C H I N G R A C
E N O M A D I E K A D N N
P G N N T V U L Y R E I O
I U Z 6 C V A D C D S S M
N A E Y I E L D A A P H A
T R Z F H N I B I B O I D
I D X U R G M V N E N N I
M I R R A E V N E L D G C
A A L I E N A T E D E L H
T N Y O Y C R E E P N Y A
E Q R U N O M A D I T R I
Y B E S V E N G E A N E R

- INTIMATE** – To join sexually with your spouse
- CONCEIVED** – A baby begins to grow inside his mother.
- REGARD** – To be pleased with, to accept
- FURIOUS** – Very very angry
- DESPONDENT** – Very very sad, feeling rejected
- CROUCHING** – hiding, ready to attack
- GUARDIAN** – Someone responsible for another family member
- ALIENATED**– Not welcome in the community, shut out
- YIELD** – Plants growing up and having fruit
- BANISHING** – To push someone away and not allow them to return
- VENGEANCE** – Hurting someone who has hurt you
- NOMADIC** – Moving about, not having a home tied to the land
- LYRE** – An ancient harp-like musical instrument
- BRONZE** – A metal alloy of copper and tin

Cain Murders Abel

¹ The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have had a male child with the LORD's help."² She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground. ³In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD. ⁴And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.

We can be pretty sure that God had taught Cain that an animal sacrifice was more proper. What can we say about Cain's attitude towards his sacrifice by noticing the he brought "some" of the land's produce, but Abel brought the "firstborn" of his flock?

Have you ever thought about what you are saying to God if you bring Him your "leftovers" as an offering? What things can you offer God that He would consider "firstborn" of what you have?

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? ⁷If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

The first murder came as the result of jealousy. Cain was jealous that Abel received God's favor and he did not. Have you ever been tempted by jealousy, where you eagerly desire the good things that others have? It's hard to be happy with what you have when others seem to have better things. The apostle Paul said that "Godliness with contentment is great gain." How can we grow in contentment when we are tempted to be jealous?

⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰Then he said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹So now you are cursed, alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood you have shed. ¹²If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³But Cain answered the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! ¹⁴Since you are banishing me today from the face of the earth, and I must hide from your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵Then the LORD replied to him, "In that case, whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." And he placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him. ¹⁶Then Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Jesus said that we would "Reap what we sow". If we sow righteousness and obedience, we will reap blessing. If we sow sin and jealousy, we will reap punishment. God's punishment for Cain's sin was to prevent him from farming the land the way he had all his life. Describe a time in your life when you suffered a punishment for some sin you committed? Was it something that your parents imposed on you, or the natural consequences of your sinful decision?

The Line of Cain

¹⁷Cain was intimate with his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain became the builder of a city, and he named the city Enoch after his son. ¹⁸Irada was born to Enoch, Irada fathered Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹Lamech took two wives for himself, one named Adah and the other named Zillah. ²⁰Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of the nomadic herdsmen. ²¹His brother was named Jubal; he was the father of all who play the lyre and the flute. ²²Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah.

²³Lamech said to his wives:

Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, pay attention to my words. For I killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.

²⁴ If Cain is to be avenged seven times over, then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times!

Would you like to be Lamech's friend? The Bible calls men like him arrogant, proud, a fool. The book of Proverbs says that we should not associate with people who make a habit of boasting and are violent. Instead, we should pray for such people so that God might be gracious and change their hearts as they accept Him as their Lord and Savior. Write the name of someone here that you can pray for to receive Jesus.

²⁵Adam was intimate with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has given me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." ²⁶A son was born to Seth also, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

Seth was the man who became the ancestor of Noah and everyone else who would not die in the flood that was coming. Lamech, Cain and all their descendants would ultimately die under God's judgment.

What things can we do to be the kind of people who "call on the name of the Lord"?

Ideas for Teaching the Younger Kids

Bring in some "bad fruit" to show the children. This could be apples with spots on them, or wilted lettuce, or other vegetables that have begun to go a little bit bad. Explain to them how you might be tempted to give them away as a sacrifice to God since you would not want to eat them anymore.

Have the children try their very best "angry" faces. Then tell them to try a "despondent" face. Then ask them to show a face they would use if they knew that God was pleased with them.

Illustrate the concept of jealousy by having one child hold something they might really value, like a cupcake or a crisp, new dollar bill. Then have another child hold something less valued, like one of your spotty apples, or a nickel. Then ask the child with the less valued object how he feels knowing that someone else got something better. Ask the whole class to discuss strategies for dealing with those jealous feelings.

To discuss the concept of sin and punishment, share an event from your own past where you knew you had chosen sin. Describe the negative consequences you either received from your parents or received naturally from the outflow of the sinful choice. Then describe how you wished you had acted in that situation and pursued obedience instead.

Describe an encounter you had recently with a Lamech-like person. How did he/she make you feel. Then take a moment to allow the kids to think of a Lamech that they know. Take a moment to pray for their Lamechs so that they can know Jesus someday.

Have a 'brainstorming' time to ask the kids what they could do to 'call on the name of the Lord'. This might include: praying, worshipping, singing praise songs, reading and studying his Word, memorizing Bible verses, etc. Get creative with your ideas.

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