

Unit 1, Session 3, THE GOSPEL PROJECT

HUMANITY HATES

CORE PASSAGE: GENESIS 4:1-12

KEY CONCEPT

Sin leads us to disordered feelings and responses, and to hateful actions.

DAILY READINGS

Day 1: Genesis 4:1-5

Day 2: Genesis 4:6-8

Day 3: Genesis 4:9-12

Day 4: Genesis 4:13-16

Day 5: Genesis 4:17-26

Day 6: Psalm 75

MEMORY VERSE

“Just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.” 1 Corinthians 15:22

PERSONAL PREPARATION

SIN LEADS US TO DISORDERED FEELINGS AND RESPONSES (GENESIS 4:1-7).

Highlight words and phrases that define Cain’s emotions. Note how each emotion feeds off the other.

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. **3** In the course of time Cain presented some of the land’s produce as an offering to the LORD. **4** And 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, **5** but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent. **6** Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? **7** If 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.”

In what parts of your life do you not give your all or your best to God?

When you sin, how do you tend to respond if not in repentance?

PERSONAL PREPARATION

SIN LEADS US TO HATEFUL ACTIONS (GENESIS 4:8-12).

Note the depth of Cain's fall and the results of that fall.

8 Cain 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. **9** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?" **10** Then he said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! **11** So now you are cursed, alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood you have shed. **12** If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

When have you seen sin lead to more sin as a general example or from an example in your own life?

How does sin derail our sense of purpose and productivity?

Progression of Sin

List the progression of Cain's sin using James 1:12-15 as a model.

JAMES 1:12-15

GENESIS 4:1-12

What does this exercise reveal about our struggle with temptation and sin?

HEAD, HEART, HANDS

Head:

How might misunderstanding God's character lead you to sin?

Heart:

How can you commit yourself to being a loving keeper of your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Hands:

How can you assure someone this week that the gospel can help break his or her progressive spiral of sin?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 75:1-7, praising God for His justice and for the provision of salvation found in the gospel.