

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

THE BLOOD CRIES OUT GENESIS 4

We don't just do sinful things, we are sinful people, desperately in need of being made new.

1. REVIEW

Tell a story of a time where you remember getting caught doing something you weren't supposed to do.

Read Genesis 4:1-16. Don't focus on Cain's offering, but rather God's response to his offering. How does God respond to Cain? What is He warning Cain of?

Why do you think sin can't be controlled and managed?

2. ASSESS

True, vulnerable confession of deeply rooted sin is not easy. You might find it better to divide into genders at this point in the conversation.

How have you seen sin entangle in your life? More importantly, where have you seen God's grace and Jesus' finished work overcome sin in your life?

Was there anything you know you should've confessed last week that you chose to keep hidden?

3. APPLY

Spend the rest of your time praying that God would give you the strength to overcome - not in your strength but in His. Bring the name of Jesus Christ to bear in your life.

Make a commitment to bring your first and your best to the Lord this week.

MY GROUP'S APPLICATIONS

SERMON NOTES

5 WORDS TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT SIN:

1. Temptation
2. Action
3. Reaction
4. Consequences
5. Grace

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

Please begin by reading Genesis 4:7. Does this verse sound a little familiar to another verse we've seen recently? Flip to its parallel verse in Genesis 3:16 which is almost identical. Genesis 4:7 offers more insight into what God means when He uses the word "desire" in these verses. When God says sin's desire is contrary to Cain, God is expressing that sin wants to overcome and master him. Similarly, then, when Eve's "desire" is for her husband, she will want to overcome and master her husband. Here's the deal, just as God conveys to Cain that sin's desire is to overpower him, he was also warned Adam and Eve of the evil desires of their hearts in Gen. 3:16. So, what happens in the context of marriage when Adam or Eve will give into the sin crouching at the door? God communicates to Eve that when sin gains the upper hand in her heart, she will desire to overpower or subdue her husband. The curse similarly affects Adam. When sin gains the upper hand in man's heart, he will seek to abuse his strength in order to rule over and subdue his wife. This is wrong. Adam must rule over and crush his sin, not his wife.

This new tension between Adam and Eve is utterly heartbreaking because even prior to the Fall, God had created Adam and Eve perfectly equal in value, and had given them both different roles which would complement each other beautifully. It doesn't take long to see the impact sin had on the beautiful relationship God had designed marriage to be. Rather than valuing the distinct roles and differences between men and women, men have often sought to dominate women, and women have often sought to strip men of their God-given masculinity in order to claim it as their own. Throughout the course of history, one sees repeatedly how in most cultures men have given into the sinful desires of their hearts in order to abuse the women in their lives. In our American society today, many women are suppressed, abused, and uncared for. This is sin! Moreover, when women surrender to the sin crouching at their doors, it often takes the form of complaints against husbands. "He can't do anything right!" "Men are like dogs, you have to train them to do what you need from them". Remember, due to the curse the woman is naturally, and sinfully opposed to her husband. As a result, the wife will be tempted to take on the responsibility of being the primary leader of the family, and all too often the husband will slip into apathy, content to hand over his God-given role (not unlike Adam who stood by watching as his wife picked the forbidden fruit from the tree). The wife may be more prone to belittle her husband, disrespect him, and to boss him.

Tragically, a sinful game of tug of war between men and women ensued once sin entered the world. Satan is the supposed "referee" who adheres to no rule book. He says to the wife, "the prize of your battle against your husband is liberation and control". To the husband, he says, "Your prize is respect, your ego, and control as well". His goal is to devalue what it means to be made in the image of God, to belittle gender, and to pit husbands and wives against each other. This tug of war takes many different forms depending on the marriage, the culture, and the time period in history, but it is played whenever one surrenders their heart to the sin crouching at the door. To pick up the rope is to devalue the role God has given you and the role he has given your spouse (or possibly your future spouse). The enemy is not your spouse, the enemy is sin. As the church seeks to overcome this sin and its effects, it should free women who are being wrongfully abused. The church needs to show men what godly leadership looks like, to equip men to lead their brides the way Christ leads the church, help women understand and appreciate God-given femininity, and help men and women return to God's design for marriage. First and foremost, the church (the saints of God) need to address the sin crouching at the door and call it out for what it is. If husbands and wives do not address the effects sin may have on their marriage, it will lead to death. Just as sin's desire was contrary to Cain and led him to kill his brother, so too will sin in marriage lead to the death of marriage - divorce. What sin is crouching at your door? If you are married, how might this sin be affecting your marriage?

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

Hosea 4

What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?

DAY 2

Romans 3

What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?

DAY 3

Romans 5

What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?

DAY 4

Matthew 4

What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?

DAY 5

1 John 1

What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?