



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

World History in a Nutshell | March 26, 2023

Summary

The characteristics of sin are: the power of sin, the subtlety of sin and the victory over sin. Are you living in victory or are you being consumed by sin?

Scripture

Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the LORD's help, I have produced a man!" Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. "Why are you so angry?" the LORD asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master." One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him. Afterward the LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" "I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?" But the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! -Genesis 4:1-10 (NLT)

It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith. -Hebrews 11:4 (NLT)

You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel. -Hebrews 12:24 (NLT)

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. -1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

Let's Start

How do you define "sin"?

Gratitude and Prayer

How did God work in your life since the last time we were together?

Let's Talk

1. Pastor Dale gave a few examples of the way our culture is transforming. Can you think of some other ways sin is being normalized?
2. What was wrong with Cain's offering that God would reject it?
3. Where is justice and grace in the story of Cain and Abel?
4. Pastor Dale shared the following list of sins Christians often ignore. Do you agree with this list? Are there more things you would add? Which one(s) of these is convicting to you?
 - *Gluttony* (obsessing, overeating and hurting our bodies)
 - *Fear and anxiety* (not mental illness which needs treatment and help, but the intentional worry over things we cannot control)
 - *Idolatry* (social media, money, looks, sex, etc.)
 - *Consumerism* (thinking I can find happiness in consuming rather than giving)
 - *Nationalism* (Our ultimate allegiance is to God and not to this country. So many Christians seem more concerned about the direction of government than the lost soul of their neighbor.)
 - *Idleness* (wasting time doing what doesn't matter instead of making what we do matter for the Kingdom of God)
 - *Comfort* (Jesus said, "Come, follow Me and die to yourself.")
5. How do we gain victory over sin?

Let's Act

Who can you invite to an Easter service this year?
