

MAIN POINT:

Fireside

Genesis is the beginning of the world, humanity, sin and God's people. God is the creator who always existed; the creator who designed everything with a purpose; and the God who created humans in His image. Then sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sin broke our relationship with God. But God is merciful and Just and He had a plan to rectify our relationship with Him. After Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden because of their sin, they had two sons—Cain and Abel. When they were older, Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to the Lord. The Lord was pleased with Abel and his offering, but Cain did not offer the best of his crops for his offering and so God rejected it. Cain's response was anger and shame. However, God's response toward Cain was grace and mercy. God gave Cain a warning and a chance to repent, but Cain chose not to repent of his sin and attacked and killed his brother Abel. Because God is just, He sets things right when there is a wrong. God gave Cain a punishment. He was banished from his home and family. God was fully justified in His position of almighty creator to judge Cain's actions. But we also see the goodness of God expressed through mercy to Cain and his family. God gave Cain mercy, which is unmerited and undeserved favour. When God banished Cain, He still promised to protect him. What we need to remember from this story is that we must take sin seriously. We should guard our hearts against the things that will separate us from God and cause us to sin. But when we do sin, we need to repent so we can repair our relationship with the Lord. We can be on the lookout for warnings from God through the Bible, others and through His voice. When we are faced with situations that could cause us to sin, we need to stop and decide what our response should be. The struggle against sin is not ours alone. God is calling each one of us to turn away from sin and to trust in His Son, Jesus, for the forgiveness of our sin.

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

1. **What questions have you had so far during the Genesis Series? What was confusing? What was something that surprised you? What was something new you learned?** (*Listen and respond.*)

2. **We have learned a lot about the beginning of the world and the creation of all things (including humans). We learned that:**
 - a. **God is the uncreated Creator**
 - b. **God designs everything with a purpose**
 - c. **God created humans in His image**

When you look at the lives of your friends, family, or even yourself, which one of these truths has been easiest for you to understand and apply to your life? (*Listen and respond.*)

Which one has been difficult for you to understand and apply to your life? Why has it been difficult? (*Listen and respond.*)

3. **We learned how God was merciful to Cain and his family. God was merciful to Cain by giving him a warning before he murdered Abel. There are many ways God can speak to us/warn us when we are faced with hard situations and tempted to say, think, or do something that is against God and His commands. We talked about 3 specific ways God can speak to us:**
 - a. **His Word**
 - b. **Other people**
 - c. **His voice**

Where have you seen God speak to you in the past in one of those ways (or another way if you have an example). (Share a time when God spoke to you in one of those ways and encourage responses)

4. **Where have you seen God working in your life this past month? (Listen and respond.)**

FAMILY PRAYER:

Read Psalm 150 over your student and then bless them.

“Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens. Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

(Students name), May your life this week praise the Lord. May the words that come out of our mouth, your thought life, and every action you take praise God for His goodness and faithfulness in your life. May you experience God’s mercy this week in new ways and may you hear Him speak to you through His Word, through other people, and His still small voice. God takes great delight in you. You are His creation and were designed to be in relationship with Him. May you experience His peace as you walk in these truths this week.