

R U N
are you in?

LifeGroups
get connected.

TRANSFORMATION

“And we... are being transformed into His likeness.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

CHETS TOP 5

Chets Volontours
January 10th

9:45 & 11:15 a.m.

2010 Annual
Budget Vote
January 24th

Celebrate
Recovery
Anniversary
January 25th • 7:00 p.m.

C.L.A.S.S. 101-401
January 31st • 5:00 p.m.

Life University
Tailgate Party
& Kick-off
February 3rd • 5:30 p.m.

Discussion Guide

Life Sentences - “Abel”

FOCUS: to examine the life of Abel and be challenged to live by faith.

“By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.”

Hebrews 11:4 (NIV)

1. What was Abel’s occupation? (Genesis 4:2)
2. What was Cain’s occupation? (Genesis 4:2)
3. How did their offerings differ and why did God favor Abel’s offering? (Genesis 4:3-5)
4. Abel gave out of faith and devotion. When you give, do you resemble Abel or Cain?
5. Cain’s “faith” was dead/not real. How do some religious people today go through the motions but lack a real relationship with Christ?
6. What do the following passages teach about faith?
 - a. (Matthew 24:42-46)
 - b. (Romans 10:17)
 - c. (1 Corinthians 15:14)
 - d. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - e. (James 1:3)
 - f. (James 2:26)
7. Abel was the first martyr (witness) in the Bible. How did his blood speak volumes after his death? (Genesis 4:10-11)
8. How does (Hebrews 12:24) speak to the superiority of Christ’s blood?
9. “By faith he was commended as a righteous man.” Can that be said of you right now, today?



CHETS CREEK
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Read Thru the Bible

"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Psalm 119:103-105

Jan	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
10	Genesis 19:23-21:21	Matthew 7:13-8:4	7:1-8	1:28-31
11	Genesis 21:22-23:20	Matthew 8:5-27	7:9-17	1:32-33
12	Genesis 24:1-54	Matthew 8:28-9:17	8:1-9	2:1-5
13	Genesis 24:55-26:11	Matthew 9:18-38	9:1-6	2:6-8
14	Genesis 26:12-27:29	Matthew 10:1-20	9:7-12	2:9-10
15	Genesis 27:30-29:12	Matthew 10:21-42	9:13-20	2:11-15
16	Genesis 29:13-30:43	Matthew 11:1-19	10:1-6	2:16-19
17	Genesis 31:1-55	Matthew 11:20-12:8	10:7-12	2:20-22

LifeGroup Prayer Requests:

"You are not responsible for everyone in the church family - but you are responsible to them. So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY

Cain ~ 1 John 3:12

Examine the negative traits of Cain and be challenged to adopt spiritual disciplines to avoid the path of Cain.

MONDAY - JANUARY 11, 2010

Read Genesis 4:6-12: Crouching at Your Door

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." 8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." [a] 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 keeper?" 10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. 11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

These verses tell us of Cain's anger when Abel's sacrifice was accepted and his was not. Cain continued to harbor resentment and eventually killed his brother.

- In verse 6, what did God tell Cain to do? What does this tell us about the source of our anger?
- What did God tell Cain about the results of not doing what is right?
- How do you handle anger? Do you continue to cultivate and nurture your anger? Do you rehearse the story of your anger over and over?

TUESDAY - JANUARY 12, 2010

Read Genesis 4:6-12: My Brother's Keeper

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." 8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." [a] 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 keeper?" 10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. 11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

Cain is consumed by a murderous anger that focused on his brother.

- After Cain killed Abel, why do you think that God approached him with a question? Why did God not directly accuse Cain?
- What was Cain's attitude when he answered God's question?
- How would God like for you to answer the question "Am I my brother's keeper?"
- Why are family relationships more intense than other relationships?

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WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 13, 2010

Read Matthew 5:21-24: Conflict Resolution

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. 23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

When in an adversarial situation, the righteous person should immediately make the first step toward resolving the conflict.

- How are anger and murder connected?
- When someone becomes aware of a relationship problem, how quickly should he/she act?
- What are our modern-day equivalents of "Raca" and "you fool?"
- With whom do you have an adversarial relationship? What do you need to do about it?

NOTES: _____

THURSDAY - JANUARY 14, 2010

Read 1 John 3:11-14a: Love One Another

11"This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 13Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. 14We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death."

From the very beginning John has encouraged us to "love one another."

- Why do you think that John chose the illustration of Cain and Abel when he was discussing loving your brother?
- According to John, why did Cain murder his brother? From our study earlier this week, how would you say that Cain came to "belong to the evil one?"
- How can a person know that he or she has passed from death unto life?
- About what should believers not be surprised? Why did John feel it important to include this?

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FRIDAY - JANUARY 15, 2010

Read 1 John 3:11-14a: Love in Action

11"This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 13Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. 14We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death."

What practical applications can we glean from these verses?

- What does it mean to love one's brother? How can we show it?
- Who is my brother?
My own "flesh and blood."
Other believers.
Those people I feel a kinship with.
Anyone.
Other _____
- When do you struggle with loving someone else?
- Is it easier to love with words or in actions?
- How will you use your time and resources to show your love to someone this week?

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