

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 4

Genesis four is the heartbreaking story of murder. Murder is killing someone with anger, premeditation, and intent to take someone's life. The prohibition of this is later codified in the ten commandments, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13). God had obviously set precedent by the death of a lamb as to what is the proper substitutionary offering for sin. Abel followed God's instructions, but Cain, his brother, did not. Cain rather brought what he thought would be sufficient and good to God as an offering. God told Cain that not only was the offering not acceptable, but neither was his attitude. His offering was given without faith. Faith is equated in the Bible to trust. Trust is taking God's Words as true and living in obedience to them. We prove we love God and trust him by the way we live. Cain's way is the way of wanting to do things your own way instead of God's. This is mentioned in the small book of Jude 11a. Hebrews 11:4 sheds great light upon the attitude

and heart of both Abel and Cain, "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he, being dead, still speaks."

Prayer and Action Steps:

God, please help me to be like Abel and do what pleases you by trusting you know better than I. Please help me to make choices that are in keeping with your plan for my life, because you know best. Thank you for your forgiveness when I go astray and choose my own way. Thank you for the Godly example of Abel. Remind me that you are the only one who can take vengeance on those who do wrong toward me. Let me always look to you for guidance in my attitudes and my actions. Examine your life today and see if there is any wickedness or ill will toward someone, anyone else in your life. Give your anger to God, acknowledge any bitterness, and allow God to wash you and give you freedom from anger.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
