

Sunday, October 15, 2023 - "Genesis - Week 4 - God's Grace Carries On" - Wayne Stapleton

Key Passages: Genesis 4:1-26, Jeremiah 19:5, 1 Peter 2:23, Romans 12:19

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- The world we live in is marred by pain but God's grace carries on
- Genesis 4 - the effect of sinned God's engagement with humanity
- Genesis 4:1-16
 - The world became very dark after the fall...chaos, isolation, destruction, suffering
 - The first baby was the first murderer
- Human agency/choice (ability to make decisions even if they're disobedient ones) → sin and disobedience
- Abel's offering was more valuable than Cain's - "What and how we give is a statement about our regard for God" - Wayne Stapleton
- Am I my brother's keeper?
 - Cain was only concerned with himself
 - Selfishness ruins family/community
- Jeremiah 19:5 - God gives freedom and innocent people get hurt
- 2 shocking observations
 - 1) God's regard for Abel's sacrifice doesn't keep Abel from being murdered
 - He doesn't buy his way out of calamity
 - God doesn't owe us if we give to him (no quid pro quo)
 - Grace isn't grace if it's earned
 - 2) Cain's murder of Abel doesn't keep him from God's grace
 - God's mark protected Cain
 - God's grace isn't just absence punishment
 - Cain doesn't receive the treatment that he gave Abel
- Grace is extended to the undeserving...or it isn't grace
- We tame grace and convince ourselves we aren't that bad
 - Journey of spiritual growth includes self awareness
 - There is evil in all of us that God wants to purge
- 1 Peter 2:23
- Romans 12:19 - Christian character is the opposite of vengeance
- God's plan continues...Jesus born from Seth's line, there is hope for the future
- God's ultimate answer to sin and suffering is Jesus
- God's grace doesn't just save us, it shapes us

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How has God's grace shaped you up to this point in your life?
2. How has the grace you have received inspired you to extend grace to others?
3. When was a time you felt like you were trying to earn God's grace?
4. How has God grown your self awareness and your understanding of your need for his grace?
5. How have you seen selfishness ruin community or relationship?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[Great Jehovah - *Travis Greene*] - [Ancient Gates - *Brooke Ligertwood*] - [Only a Holy God - *City Alight*] - [Promises - *Maverick City*]