



Sermon Series: Navigating Family Conflict

To be used with Session 1: Cain and Abel: Family Responsibility

Sermon Title Possibilities: Faithfulness in Family Responsibility

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-12

Connection with Unit Theme: This sermon complements the Bible study “Navigating Family Conflict.” It shows us that our relationships in our human family depend heavily on our relationship with our Heavenly Father. The way we view, and value God will determine the way we view and value the people in our lives.

Introduction: Genesis chapter four unfolds the birth, work, worship, and witness of the first two sons born to Adam and Eve. It provides us with a template through which to examine our lives. The chapter may be outlined as such:

- The Conception of Cain and Abel v.1-2
- The Corruption of Cain v.3-8
- The Consequences of Cain’s Sin v.9-12
- The Conviction of Cain v.13-14
- The Covering of Cain v.15
- The Conquest of Cain v.16-18
- The Continuation of Cain’s Legacy v.19-24
- The Conception of Seth v.25
- The Calling upon the Lord v.26

1. The Procreation of the Two Brothers (v. 1-2a)

I want you to notice the relationship, reproduction, and recognition in this portion of our text. Adam and Eve are the prototypes for God-ordained marital relationships. Adam’s romantic engagement with his wife led to the reproduction of children—this is how it is supposed to be. Eve recognized that Cain and Abel came from the Lord. Faithfulness in family begins with realizing that the family we have is a gift from God.

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2. The Vocation of the Two Brothers (v. 2b)

The next thing I want us to see is that one brother, Cain, was laboring for the land, and the other brother (Abel) was laboring for the Lord. Cain “worked the ground,” but Abel “became a shepherd of flocks.” I think this speaks to living in the flesh or living in the faith. My challenge for us is to make sure that we do all that we do as unto the Lord (Col. 3:16-24) and in the power of the Lord (Gal. 5:16-17).

3. The Dedication of the Two Brothers (v. 3-4a)

Because the Lord was pleased with Abel’s offering and displeased with Cain’s offering, we learn something about our worship and our giving. Essentially, Cain is a picture of giving to the Lord from the bottom, and Abel is a portrait of giving to the Lord our best. Our faithfulness to our family begins with our faithfulness to our Father—our heavenly Father deserves our best worship and our best giving. Let’s keep God first in all things.

4. The Evaluation of the Two Brothers (v. 4b-12)

The text shows us that Cain got reprimand from the Lord, but Abel got recognition from the Lord. The Revelation from the Lord is this: if we worship the Lord with our whole hearts and give Him our best, we will receive respect from the Lord. If we do not, we will receive a reprimand from the Lord. Also, we see the power of corrupt ways—it led Cain to slaying his brother, and the potential of a continual witness—we learn that though Abel is dead, he is yet speaking (Heb. 11:4).

Conclusion: May the Lord help us be faithful in our family responsibilities by looking after our family members, and not destroying our family members. May we commit today to pray for them relentlessly, give to the extravagantly, and witness to them aggressively.

Author Bio

Reginald D. Taylor is a graduate of Crichton College, Union University, Capital Seminary, and is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the senior Pastor of The Rock Church and Assistant Professor/Director of Urban Theological Studies at MCUTS @ Union University in Memphis TN. He and his wife Dr. Tarra R. Taylor has one son—Reginald D. Taylor II—and three grandchildren Micah, Yara, and Aviyah.

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