

Sermon Discussion Guide



Speaker: Brandon Bradley

Series: Origin Story

Title: Then They Had Some Kids

Primary Texts: Genesis 4:1-26

Big Idea: Sin is crouching at your door. But Jesus mastered it and calls you to follow in His footsteps.

Sermon Outline

I. The Scene: East of Eden

- Genesis 4:1–2 — Two brothers, two callings
- Genesis 4:3–5 — Two offerings, two responses
- Genesis 4:6 — God comes to Cain before the crime
- Genesis 4:8 — The world's first murder
- Genesis 4:9–12 — "Am I my brother's keeper?" The ground becomes a witness
- Genesis 4:13–16 — The mark: judgment and grace in the same gesture
- Genesis 4:23–24 — Lamech: violence multiplies through generations
- Genesis 4:25–26 — Seth and Enosh: hope remains

What We Found at the Scene...

1. How we come to God reveals who we think God is

- Cain brought *some*: casual, costless
- Abel brought his best: fat portions of the firstborn (Hebrews 11:4)
- Inferior worship reveals an irreverent heart
- Am I giving God the leftovers of my time, treasure, attention, and talent... or my best?

2. Sin is the real predator

- Genesis 4:7: Sin crouches at the door, desires to have us, but we must master it.
- Same Hebrew word (*teshûqâh*) as Genesis 3:16: the same predator, a new door.
- Sin is not just a rule we break: it is an aggressive, patient, lethal force.

3. Your brother is not optional

- "Am I my brother's keeper?" is Cain's deflection.
- God's call: love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18)
- Every human bears the image of God, so our responsibility extends to all
- Matthew 5:23–24: You cannot rightly worship while holding your brother wrongly

4. The blood cries out, and God hears it

- Abel's blood cried from the ground: justice is not silent
- Matthew 5:6: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- The ache for justice is a Kingdom instinct placed in us by God

5. Jesus is the Better Brother

- Abel's blood cried *for* justice, but Jesus' blood speaks a *better* word (Hebrews 12:24)
- Gethsemane: Jesus felt the predator crouching... and mastered it (Matthew 26:39)
- Cain asked: "*Am I my brother's keeper?*"
- Jesus answered: *Yes, even at the cost of my life*
- The mark of Cain, guilt and grace in the same gesture, was always the shape of the gospel

HEAD Questions (Understanding the Text)

1. What clues in Genesis 4 suggest that the difference between Cain and Abel was deeper than the type of offering they brought?
2. Why does God approach Cain before the murder takes place?
3. What does God mean when He says, "Sin is crouching at your door"?
4. How does Cain respond when God asks about Abel?
5. What does it mean that Abel's blood cried out from the ground?
6. How does Hebrews 12:24 compare the blood of Abel with the blood of Jesus?
7. Why is Jesus presented as the "Better Brother" in this sermon?

HEART Questions (Personal Reflection)

1. Which of Cain's struggles—anger, envy, comparison, resentment, or wounded pride—do you most identify with?
2. Have you ever found yourself "going through the motions" in worship while your heart was somewhere else?
3. What "predator" is currently crouching at your door?
4. Where are you tempted to ignore responsibility for someone God may be calling you to love or help?
5. How does it encourage you to know that God approached Cain before he acted and still pursues people today?
6. What does it mean personally that Jesus' blood speaks a better word over your life than your failures do?

HANDS Questions (Faithful Response)

1. What is one area of sin or temptation that you need to honestly name before God this week?
2. How can you intentionally worship God with your best rather than merely your leftovers?
3. Is there a broken relationship where God may be calling you to take a step toward reconciliation?
4. Who in your life needs a "better brother" or "better sister" right now?
5. How can you actively support someone who is struggling with anger, grief, temptation, or isolation?
6. What practical step can you take this week to follow Jesus' example of self-giving love?
7. How can your group help one another resist sin and walk faithfully with Christ?

Closing Reflection

Genesis 4 is more than the story of two brothers. It is a crime scene, and the evidence points to something older and darker than just Cain's anger. A predator has been crouching at the human door since Eden, and this chapter shows us what happens when it gets through. Anger. Envy. A body in a field. Violence that multiplies through generations until boasting about murder feels ordinary.

But the chapter is also filled with something unexpected. God warns before the crime happens. He walks toward the guilty rather than away from them. He marks the murderer — not for shame, but for protection. Guilt and grace in the same gesture. The chapter doesn't end in darkness. It ends with people calling on the Lord's name.

Abel's blood cried out from the ground for justice. But Jesus — the Better Brother — stepped into the field, mastered the predator that every human being before him had failed to master, and shed his own blood to speak a better word: forgiveness, mercy, reconciliation, and hope.

The invitation of Genesis 4 is not simply to avoid becoming Cain. It is to follow the One who stood at the door, held the line, and says to us: *Sin is crouching at your door. But I've already mastered it. Now follow me.*