

## Reading & Prayer

### Reconciliation

**21** You have heard that the ancients were told, “You shall not commit murder” and “whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.” **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, “You good-for-nothing,” shall be guilty before the supreme court, and whoever says, “You fool,” shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. **23** Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, **24** leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. **25** Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. **26** Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid the last cent.

### Cain and Abel : Genesis 4:1-8

Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with the help of the Lord.” **2** Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. **3** So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. **4** Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; **5** but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. **6** Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? **7** If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.” **8** Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

## start reading. read together the main scripture for this study

### reading #1

In reading these verses of scripture, what would you circle, highlight, or underline as important to know or understand? Is there anything you noticed for the first time?

*What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses upon you? Meditate on that.*

## start thinking. ask a thoughtful question

Read the story of Cain and Abel in **Genesis 4:1-8**

**How might you imagine the the "Cain talked to Abel" conversation going? - or what might have been the ideal conversation that may have helped create a different outcome?**

Dallas Willard wrote. "**Find a person who has embraced anger, and you find a person with a wounded ego...anger indulged, instead of simply waved off, always has in it an element of self-righteousness and vanity.**"

How is "self-righteousness" then tied to our "anger"?

## start sharing. engage it with your story

*What specific situation in your life relates? Write down or pray.*

*What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about during the sermon? Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?*

Have you ever been angry? How did you resolve you anger?

How have you practiced or experienced the "ministry of reconciliation"?

Is it possible to "not count" someone's trespasses (sins) against them?

## start practicing. commit to a next step and live it out this week

*What is Jesus' personal invitation to you from the scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks.*

Is there someone in your life you can move towards reconciling with? What might be the first step?

## start praying. be bold and pray with power

prayer requests: