

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Family ...why bother?

OPENING UP



Have you ever seen someone who talked a big game—and then didn't live up to their own boasting? What happened—and how did observing it change your perspective on pride?

TEXT



Designed for Dignity | Genesis 4:1–14 (ESV)

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." 2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. 6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. 11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." 13 Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14 Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: Faithless Pride Destroys Fallen People

1. Failure in faith is the front door to pride. (vv. 3-5)
2. The more pride, the more sin. (vv. 6-9)
3. Pride kills relationships. (vv. 10-14)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- The Big Idea from our passage was, “Faithless pride destroys fallen people,” which we saw in Cain’s story. Can you think of any other examples of pride destroying people?
- How might faith in Jesus keep us from falling into pride?
- God warns Cain that his pride is going to result in a multiplication of sin. Looking at Gen 4:6–7 how does pride multiply sin?
- How can we guard against pride to keep from walking Cain’s path?
- Has pride prevented you from seeking reconciliation with God or another person? What steps is God calling to you take based on what we learn from the story of Cain?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Pride destroys all that it touches, but when we look at Jesus we see the Holy God show us what it means to be genuinely good and gracious to those around us. Stop and pray—that God would expose the areas of pride within your own life so that you might be a light within your family and within your community.

CLOSING PRAYER



Lord, help me to never take my eyes off you. Wherever there is pride within me, please rid me of it—so that my heart might not be focused upon me, but upon you. May your holy grace pour through me; may the identity you’ve given me be my peace and joy—nothing else! Lord, forgive me for where I’ve allowed the poison of pride to hurt those you’ve placed around me. Now, as I grow before you, help me learn to walk—day by day—in your humility and love. Amen.