

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
Passage: Genesis 4

Read Genesis 4:1-5

1. Why did God accept Abel's offering but not Cain's? (vv.3-4)
2. Read 1 John 3:12 and Hebrews 11:4. What do these add to our understanding of why God accepted one and not the other?

Read Genesis 4:6-12.

3. What is God's promise to Cain? What is his warning? What must Cain do if he wants to master sin and not be mastered by it?
4. What does Cain's response to God indicate about his attitude to the murder of Abel (v.9)?
5. What is God's punishment of Cain?

Read Genesis 4:13-16.

6. God never said to Cain that he would be driven away from his face. But Cain seems to understand this to be the case from the punishment that God gives (v.14, 16). Why might Cain's removal from his family and their land mean he is also removed from God's face?
7. Cain is frightened that the people in the land might find and slay him. Who do you think might seek out Cain to kill him?
8. What does the number 'seven' often represent in the Bible? What might it mean that God will take sevenfold vengeance on anyone who kills Cain (v.15)?

Read Genesis 4:17-22.

9. What are the different human advancements that occur in these verses?

Read Genesis 4:23-24.

10. What does Lamech mean when he claims his vengeance is "seventy-seven"?
11. What are the different sins that Lamech commits?
12. What point about sin is the story making by putting Lamech at the end of a passage about human achievements?

Read Genesis 4:25-26.

13. In what ways does God show grace to people throughout this chapter?
14. This chapter explores the nature of sin and says that it is enslaving, deceiving, and finds ever-new ways to express itself. Why might the first prayer in the Bible (v.26) occur at the end of this chapter? What does this tell us about prayer?