**Genesis 4**

1. Chapters 1 to 4 of Genesis functions as a singular unit that sets the contours of the rest of Genesis and the whole Biblical drama as many would argue (Chapter 5, Adam’s family line wraps up and sets up Chapter 6—the story of Noah). The message described these chapters as a mixture of majesty, misery and mercy.
   1. What is most majestic for you in Genesis 1-4?
   2. What is most miserable for you in Genesis 1-4?
   3. What is most merciful for you in Genesis 1-4?
2. The message picked up on the theme of verse 26b, “At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord.” The verse could also be translated as “At that time people began to proclaim the name of the Lord.” What do you think the story teller is suggesting about the first four chapters up to this phrase?
3. The message suggested a number of instances where there was a chance for Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel to call upon the name of the Lord? Name a few? What might be some reasons why they didn’t call upon the Lord? Does it remind you of your own patterns of living today?
4. The message suggested that the main issue was less about Cain’s offering and more about his response to God’s favor in response to Abel’s offering. Was God upset about Cain’s offering? Is God being unfair to show favor to one brother and not to the other?
5. God says to Cain that he can overcome the enemy that is ready to pounce upon him? Did God really mean that? Does this not seem contrary to the NT teaching that we are saved by grace alone and not by works?
6. What led Cain to murder his brother? How does it work through the generations of Cain’s family? What do you learn about the pattern of sin and evil? Do you see modern day examples of this sin pattern? Explain.
7. Despite the misery that disfigures the image bearers capacity to steward God’s creation (to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth, to subdue the earth, to tend the garden, to cultivate life….), Cain’s ancestors still contribute to the unfolding of creation and its development (farming, city building, music, metal work). Do you see this as evidence of the image bearing qualities of humanity? If yes, how do you see this manifest in today’s world? If no, would you attribute such works as works of the enemy? Are you able to see the good while acknowledging the bad? Why might that be important for Christians today?
8. The message assumes that despite mankind’s turn toward misery, God’s majesty remains intact and particularly through the mercy that he shows to redeem mankind and all of creation from the effects of human sin. In a previous message on Chapter 3 Sin was described as shalom breaking – i.e. the disruption of the way things God intended for the flourishing of all of creation. How does God’s mercy unfold from these chapters and echo throughout the rest of the biblical account? Do you find a pattern? Do you see a theme? Is there something(s) that occur in these chapters that recur again and again throughout scripture? What do you see?
9. Prayer and focus: Is it time for you today to begin calling on the name of the Lord? What area of life today or what decisions do you need to make where it might be good to call on the name of the Lord? What is at stake if you don’t?