



DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DAILY

GENESIS 4:1-5

Cain and Abel brought offerings before the Lord, but one was rejected while the other was accepted. It seems there was a difference in both the gifts and the givers. Cain brought the gifts and produce, while Abel brought some of his flock (4:3-4). Abel brought the firstborn and best, but Cain brought his leftovers. Cain came with a prideful heart, but Abel offered from a sacrificial heart, but God your leftovers; give Him your best. Don't give your best time, energy, attention, effort, and worship.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS WE DON'T GIVE GOD OUR BEST?

HOW CAN YOU PUT GOD FIRST EVERY DAY?

WHAT DOES THIS STORY TEACH US ABOUT TRUE WORSHIP?

DAY 02

GENESIS 4:6-7

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU MAY BE LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR SIN IN YOUR LIFE?

HOW CAN YOU BE MORE ALERT TO THE DANGERS OF SIN?

ARE THERE ANY SINS YOU KNOW YOU NEED TO ELIMINATE FROM YOUR LIFE?

In the Disney classic *The Jungle Book*, there's an evil tiger named Shere Khan. He's always on the prowl, seeking an opportunity to harm Mowgli. In Genesis 4:7, God warned Cain that sin was prowling at the door, waiting for him to make a mistake. It's as if sin is a tiger prowling on the tall grass, waiting for an opportunity to strike. When we leave the door open for sin, we do so at our own peril. May we live in a way that takes the danger of sin seriously and doesn't let sin get in our bodies (Rom. 6:12).

DAY 03

GENESIS 4:8-16

Arguably, the most terrifying phrase in the story of Cain and Abel is that Cain "went out from the Lord's presence" (4:16). God is the source of all life and joy. His presence is a place of safety and goodness. To be separated from Him is to be cut off from all blessings. Cain's sin led him away from the Lord. Apart from God's grace, we'd all be separated from God's presence. But through the gospel, we can have assurance that He is with us wherever we go.

HOW HAS SIN MADE YOU FEEL DISTANT FROM GOD?

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO WALK CLOSELY WITH GOD?

HOW IS GOD'S PRESENCE A SOURCE OF COMFORT AND STRENGTH?

GENESIS 4:17-24

WHAT AREA OF LIFE MIGHT YOU BE GIVING A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THE TENDENCY TO EQUATE OUR SUCCESSES WITH GOD'S BLESSING?

HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THE TENDENCY TO EQUATE OUR FAILURES WITH GOD'S DISAPPROVAL?

Cain's descendants were successful and accomplished. They were the first to make significant advancements in music, culture, and industry. But there is danger in succeeding externally while failing spiritually. We may grow in pride and fail to see our need for God. Outward success is no indication of favor with God. May we be careful to pursue godliness over earthly success, for to have earthly success without godliness is to be no better than Cain.

DAY 05

GENESIS 4:25-5:32

Despite the long lives of early humanity, there's a recurring phrase in the genealogies that stands out: "then he died." Sin brought death, but this story gives us reasons for hope. God gave Eve a son, Seth, in place of Abel (4:25). Seth walked with God and never died (5:24). The genealogy ends with Noah, who would be used to save the human race. Noah's father even named him in the hope that he would save them from the curse—something that a future descendant of Noah (Jesus) would actually do. Though death dominates the human story, God keeps reminding us of hope in His promise along the way.

HOW DOES THE SHORTNESS OF OUR LIVES CREATE A SENSE OF URGENCY TO LIVE FOR GOD TODAY?

WHY DOES THE GOSPEL GIVE US HOPE EVEN WHEN WE FACE DEATH?

HOW DOES THE GUARANTEE OF DEATH MOTIVATE US TOWARD EVANGELISM?