

Message Notes | The Anatomy of Sin

Part 2: Crouching at the Door

Genesis 4:2-16

#1 Sin often _____, but it never ends that way.

→ Cain disfavored and very angered - **Genesis 4:2-7**

#2 Sin hides its _____ until it takes _____.

→ a horrible sin with consequences - **Genesis 4:8-16**

#3 Cain was not given _____.
He was given _____.

→ the other door - **Heb 12:24; Rev 3:20**

#4 When sin is crouching,
remember _____ is _____.

→ what's a small thing you've been ignoring?

Group Questions | The Anatomy of Sin

Part 2: Crouching at the Door

Genesis 4:2-16

1. What's a "small thing" you once ignored that eventually turned into a big deal?
2. **Read Genesis 4:6–7.** What stands out to you about God's conversation with Cain? What does it reveal about God's posture toward people who are struggling with sin?
3. "Sin often starts small, but it never ends that way." What are some common attitudes, habits, or choices that people often see as harmless or normal—but are actually spiritually dangerous?
4. "Sin hides its goal until it takes control." Where have you seen that play out in the Bible, in your life, or someone else's story?
5. **Read Genesis 4:10–16.** God showed Cain incredible mercy. Why might it bother someone that justice wasn't served?

What does it look like today to pursue justice while also practicing mercy that reflects God's heart?
6. **Read Hebrews 12:24.** What is the "better word," and how does it offer hope to someone who has already let sin through the door?
7. What is one small (or not-so-small) attitude, habit, belief, or choice that you want to be mindful of this week? What would it look like to address it with God's grace and mercy?

Message Notes | The Anatomy of Sin

Part 2: Crouching at the Door

Genesis 4:2-16

#1 Sin often starts small, but it never ends that way.

→ Cain disfavored and very angered - **Genesis 4:2-7**

#2 Sin hides its goal until it takes control.

→ a horrible sin with consequences - **Genesis 4:8-16**

#3 Cain was not given another chance.

He was given mercy.

→ the other door - **Heb 12:24; Rev 3:20**

#4 When sin is crouching, remember mercy is knocking.

→ what's a small thing you've been ignoring?

Bible Reading for Today

Genesis 4:2-16

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

¹⁰ The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.

¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵ But the LORD said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶ So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.