

Activity Sheet, 20 May 2018

A new start?

Genesis 4v1-16; Hebrews 11v4, 12v24

- When we make a fresh start, the old me is still there
- Genesis 4: a bigger problem - sin contaminates
 - sin complains
 - sin brings complexity
 - sin competes

➤ “We are as much descendents of Adam and Eve as were Cain and Abel.” True or false?

(1)Cain is not Abel

- different
- God's choice
- not able

➤ Is God always pleased with sacrifice? (See Proverbs 15v8).

➤ What is the test of whether we really love God according to 1 John 3v12-16?

(2)Cain is responsible

- intelligent
- instructed

➤ “In Genesis the first people are primitive and stupid – that is why they sin.” True or false?

➤ Can we be educated out of sin? See Psalm 58v3-5.

(3)Cain is restless

- not enough
- alone
- but alive

➤ How would Cain be kept safe from revenge attack? (a) hiding, (b) weapons, (c) God's protection.

(4)Abel's sacrifice

- faith in God who is...able to save

▶ Jesus' blood speaks of *forgiveness* - a new start as a new person!

➤ “Animals dying and being killed for food was normal for Cain and Abel.” True or false?

Questions for discussion:

1. How does the Bible's portrayal of early man differ to evolution?
2. Why do we like 'fresh starts'? Do they work?
3. Why do we get jealous of others? What wrong attitude to God lies behind jealousy?
4. How does our society try to make education the answer to sin? Why doesn't it work?
5. Why are people uncomfortable with the fact that we are totally dependent on God for our life?
6. A problem with this account is that it seems God is too kind to the killer. Is there justice? Where?
7. Why are Christians often regarded as 'nobodies'? Should this bother us? (See 1 Corinthians 1v28)