

AUGUST 22nd FOX CREEK EVERGREEN CONVERSATION
THE GIFT OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE: You shall not murder

Some family heart prep help: What parents can do to help our children combat bitter roots which grow into plants...James 1:19-20 is VERY practical/James helps us with the roots which make us have quarrels and conflicts with others: <https://fourthstream.com/?s=James>

Today's story and what it teaches us about the roots of trouble between people:

"Time passed. Cain brought an offering to GOD from the produce of his farm. Abel also brought an offering, but from the firstborn animals of his herd, choice cuts of meat. GOD liked Abel and his offering, but Cain and his offering didn't get his approval. Cain lost his temper and went into a sulk. GOD spoke to Cain: "Why this tantrum? Why the sulking? If you do well, won't you be accepted? And if you don't do well, sin is lying in wait for you, ready to pounce; it's out to get you, you've got to master it."

Cain had words with his brother. They were out in the field; Cain came at Abel his brother and killed him. GOD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "How should I know? Am I his babysitter?" GOD said, "What have you done! The voice of your brother's blood is calling to me from the ground. From now on you'll get nothing but curses from this ground; you'll be driven from this ground that has opened its arms to receive the blood of your murdered brother. You'll farm this ground, but it will no longer give you its best. You'll be a homeless wanderer on Earth." - Genesis 4:3-12/Message

What was happening within Cain's heart toward God? (the root)

What made him so harsh with his brother Abel? (the root)

Next level: *"What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures." - James 4:1-3*

Some ideas for youngers:

Draw a heart shape on a piece of paper or a whiteboard. What things make you really mad?

What things makes people disagree/argue with each other?

What makes fights happen with your brother or sister or cousins?

Some ideas for elders/teens conversation:

What are the hurtful expressions you have seen expressed toward you or observed made toward others?

Why are we so susceptible to being hurt by others?

How does this process get stopped at the beginning?

What can be done once it has started or has happened?

For you to share/discuss as a parent or teacher:

"This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God." - James 1:19-20

How can we slow down and even contain anger? What is a peacemaker?

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." - Matthew 5:9