



Faithful: *Genesis and the God Who's Always Working*

- ⇒ Remember that groups are a place to practice what is preached—in community with God and one another.
- ⇒ Ice Breaker: If you could have complete knowledge of **one** book of the Bible, which one would it be, and why?
- ⇒ Pray together for the Holy Spirit to open everyone's eyes to see wonderful things in the Bible (Psalm 119:18).

Have a member of the group read **Genesis 4:1-5**.

- We learned about the scriptural principle known as the **law of the firstfruits** as we considered the story of Cain and Abel. This is the idea that when the first return of our labor appears we give it back to God as an act of trust that he will continue to provide.

Are you currently living with a faith that produces deep trust that God will provide? Our trust in God often manifests itself in a willingness to plan. There's merit in sitting down to write out a monthly budget to know where all of the money is going. There's also merit in considering if you've developed unhealthy habits with your time—like binge-watching TV shows or being a Georgia Tech fan.

Are you giving God from your firstfruits or simply tossing him the leftovers?

"A simple life in the Fear-of-God is better than a rich life with a ton of headaches"
(Proverbs 15:16, MSG).

We also considered how the story of Noah isn't primarily about a stinky ark full of animals and a lucky family who made it out alive. It has to do with who God is and who we are.

- It can be difficult for us to hold in tension the reality that the holiness of God must punish sin (especially in ways he sees fit) and that he is simultaneously completely compassionate. Ask the members of your group if they can recall a time in which both of these attributes of God were present. Encourage them to share their specific stories.

Have a member of the group read **Psalms 103:8-14**.

The first eleven chapters of Genesis reveal a progressive movement east of Eden; the human race moving further and further away from the paradise God created. Even the family God spared from the Flood would yield generations of people whose every inclination would only be evil from childhood (**Genesis 8:21**). The account of the Tower of Babel is no exception to this. In an act of judgment, God confuses the language of a disobedient people in order to scatter them abroad so that **his** purpose for **his** creation will be fulfilled.

- From the third millennium BC all the way to 33 AD, God would eventually demonstrate his greatest act of judgment and simultaneously the greatest act of his love. What is something you have learned about the Gospel in Genesis?

Close with a time of prayer for your group, our church, and for the courage to truly live Christ-centered lives in our families, church family, and community.