

ORIGINS

Genesis 1-11

Discussion Guide: East of Eden- The Way of Cain

Passage: Genesis 4

Summary: As Adam and Eve must leave the presence of God in the garden because of their rebellion, they begin to experience life “east of Eden” under the curse of sin and death. And the human problem is personified in the way of Cain, their son, and his descendants. The way of Cain reveals the trajectory of life under the curse of sin...a trajectory we’re on to this very day. Together, we’ll see how we all live east of Eden.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you see the “Way of Cain” showing up in our world today? How do humans attempt to create Eden without God?
2. How do you see threads of Cain’s story in your own life? Maybe in reluctance to fully trust God and depend on Him? Maybe in wanting autonomy? What does that look like?
3. Does your use of technology, or your work in creating new technologies, lead to human flourishing and dependence on God...or does it follow the Way of Cain? How might God be inviting you to change?
4. If you have gone the way of Cain, the blood of Jesus speaks a better word over you than the blood of Abel. Instead of crying for vengeance, it calls for forgiveness. So, like Seth’s descendants, we can once again call upon the name of the Lord for help and for grace. How do you practically call upon the name of the Lord when you need help rather than rely on yourself like Cain?

At the end, take some time to pray for one another in smaller groups.