



SERMON GUIDE

WINNING THE BATTLE FOR THE HEART

Genesis 4:1-10 | Pastor Tim Porter

January 15, 2023

Faith Community Church | fchudson.com

Conversation Questions

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- Scripture that stands out to you while you read
- Observations you are making about a passage
- Applications that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- Prayer that invites God to participate in all that you do

Getting to Know Me: Share a story about a time you got in trouble as a kid. How did your parents handle it?

Notes About the Passage: In this story we're going to read about two different kinds of sacrifice. It would be good to know ahead of time that it wasn't the type of sacrifice that was the issue. Throughout the Bible, God accepted both animal and plant sacrifices. Both were valid and both were capable of expressing friendship with God.

Read Genesis 4:1-10

S: What verses, phrases, words, or feelings stand out to you as you read this text? Is anything "illuminated," surprising, or jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?

O: In one sense, Cain was doing everything right with his sacrifice, and yet God does not accept it. Why do you think that is? What do we learn about what God really wants from us? (Hint: see Hebrews 11:4)

O: Cain becomes angry. Why do you think he's angry? What do you think he wants from God?

O: God says to Cain, "sin is crouching at your door. Its desire is for you..." (v.7). What images or feelings come to mind when you hear that? What do we learn about the nature of sin from this interaction?

O: God calls Cain to "rule over" his sin. How do you think we "rule over" our sin? How should Cain have responded to God after verse 7? (Hint: see 1 John 1:9)

- Where do you think the balance is between protecting kids from external temptations to sin, and equipping them to face the sin that naturally resides within them? How can parents and churches strike this balance so that kids learn to "rule over" their sin and walk in faith?

A: If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?

A: We want to help kids understand their own hearts so that they can "rule over" their sin. Name a kid in your life that you might be able to do this with. What actions could you take to build trust? What questions could you ask to help them talk about what they want? How could you encourage them to think and reflect honestly?

P: Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.