

Leaders: Be sure to plan a date for your group to participate in the September-October focused time of prayer if you haven't done so already. The prayer documents are at the top of the Small Group Questions page online.

### **LEARN**

What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What was most helpful, encouraging or challenging to your walk with Christ?

Read Hebrews 11:4 and then Genesis 4:1-10. What key differences stand out between Abel's faith and Cain's lack of faith?

(Abel brought his first and best to God; Cain did not. You see Cain's lack of regard for his brother in response to God. Cain's response to God's instruction was anger, and ultimately killing his brother.)

Through his faith, Abel still speaks (Heb 11:4). What does Abel "say"? What practical encouragement does Abel give to us in our need to walk by faith in Jesus?

(Abel testifies to the truth of faith-fueled worship; We can and ought to worship with the faith of Abel in the God who has accepted the sacrifice of Jesus in our place, for our sin; Abel continues to tell us to bring God our first and best because he is worthy)

### **PRACTICE**

Why is it so important in your daily life to remember that faith must fuel your worship? What is lost when this isn't true for you?

(Something else like duty or fear will fuel worship, causing it to be stunted, stall out, or become uninteresting. If faith fuels worship, it is worship in spirit and truth and produces joy, hope, perseverance, adoration of God, etc.)

When worship is performance based, how does it lock someone into ungodly fear?

(You're never sure if you measure up, or if you've done enough, or if "too many sins" makes you lose standing with God. You can also believe you've done so well that God owes you blessing and become bitter at the sign of any trial)

### **CHANGE**

Abel gave God his first and his best. What is an area of your life that giving God "first and best" challenges you the most? Put another way, where do you struggle to submit everything to God in faith?

(Leaders: The goal is to uncover areas like health, finances, parenting, the future, obedience, self-control, fleeing sin and killing sin for good, etc. Ask follow up questions to get to the heart of the fear, or wrong belief that leads someone to not give their first and best to God.)

Accountability prayer suggestion: We don't offer sacrifices to God any longer because of Jesus as our final sacrifice for sin. But we are told to offer our whole lives as living sacrifices to God (Rom. 12:1). Together, pray prayers of praise for Jesus' sacrifice and declare to God again that your entire life is his by his mercy.