

## Genesis 4-5

### Week 4 – A chip off the old block

**Opening Question:** When you think of famous brothers, who comes to mind for you?

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael gave us these stats from the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University.

- 39% of all people believe life is sacred = “having unconditional, intrinsic worth.”
- 60% of Christians believe life is sacred
- 70% believe humans are generally decent, basically good

**Remind them:** This week we looked at Genesis 4-5. **Tell them:** Pastor Michael summarized this passage this way:

1. **A chip off the old block.** Cain is just like Adam, a chip off the old block. He had the same occupation and their separation from God is brought on by the issue of “knowing” (Adam: I want to know. Cain: claims “I don’t know.”)

Because of that, they are both punished in the same way: Banishment. In our passage, Cain acts out the serpent’s purpose of murdering the seed of the woman as we saw last week in 3:15. But unlike Adam, Cain takes offense instead of confessing the act.

The idea that we are all descendants from Adam, and so a chip off the old block, speaks to the earlier statistic Pastor Michael gave about belief in a basically good humanity. **Ask them:** *Why do you think most people think of themselves and others as “good?”*

2. **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said, “The root of all sin is pride.” **Ask them:** *In what way would you agree or disagree that pride is behind all sinful behavior and thoughts?*

**Tell them:** Let’s take a look at Hosea 13:4-6: “*But I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt. Therefore, you must not acknowledge any God but me; except me there is no Savior. I cared for you in the wilderness, in the dry desert where no water was. When they were fed, they became satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; as a result, they forgot me!*” **Ask them:** *What was the result of the pride of the Israelites? Ask them: What do you think are some results of people forgetting God?*

### A Pattern of Sin Emerges

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that “a pattern of sin emerges” from pride. When pride takes root, it:

1. **Prevents worship**
  - a. Eve said she was ‘like God’ and ‘created a man!’ **Ask them:** *How would this attitude impact a person’s worship?*
  - b. Cain’s pride erupted when he saw that he was not the favorite. So, he killed the superior worshipper. **Ask them:** *In what ways does this attitude prevent worship?*
  - c. Lamech takes two wives and kills the man who crosses him.

2. **Prevents fellowship** – Cain suffered from prideful competition. **Ask them:** *How do you think pride impacts healthy fellowship?* **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that: Churches usually divide over issues of pride. *Do you have any experience with this kind of division? What was its source?*
3. **Minimizes/dehumanizes others** – **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that: We make others smaller so we can feel bigger. We segregate by looks, thoughts, political lines. **Ask them:** *How does an ‘us against them’ attitude destroy the cause of Christ?* **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said this, “If your neighbor isn’t at the place you think they should be on a social or political issue, give them time and grace.” **Ask them:** *What are your thoughts on that idea?*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that you should be self-aware that you aren’t where you need to be – socially, spiritually or politically. **Ask them:** *What are your thoughts on that idea?*

4. **Elevates self** – Pastor Michael said that pride elevates self above others and that it is the opposite of humility. He said time is limited, so how soon you lay down your pride is urgent. **Ask them:** *What do you think the urgency is here?*

**Tell them:** Let’s look at Philippians 2:3–4, “*Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well.*”

### **A God of second and third chances.**

**Tell them:** Just as the first Adam gifted humanity with pride, the last and perfect Adam, Jesus, gifts us with his grace:

1. Where our pride prevents worship, **Jesus gives extravagantly.**  
No one can top this way of worship. It’s not grace plus what we give. We are saved by His grace alone. That’s extravagant worship on the part of the Son, to give Himself to the glory of the Father.
2. Where our pride prevents fellowship, **Jesus creates fellowship** by becoming the bridge between sinful man and holy God.
3. Where pride minimizes others, **Jesus elevates others.** Just look at the Beatitudes where He elevates the humble and discourages the prideful.
4. Where pride elevates self, **Jesus sacrifices self.**

### **What is left for us to do?**

**Tell them:** In summary, Pastor Michael gave us a list of things to do, opposites of pride and selfishness. **Ask them:** *Do you remember any of them based on what we have talked about so far?*

#### **Be like Jesus:**

Worship extravagantly

Create fellowship not division

Elevate others

Sacrifice yourself

**Remind them** of this quote from Pastor Michael: "The more pride you bring as a sacrifice to the altar, the more extravagant your worship." **Tell them:** *Pastor Michael gave us a couple things that you might not think are prideful to place on the altar. Can you remember those or give us any of your own?* (He listed our dreams and our opinions, our use of our money, our friendships.)

**Tweetable quotes:**

1. Be self-aware that you aren't where you need to be – socially or spiritually.
2. Time is limited, so how soon you lay down your pride is urgent.
3. Do not fear, the more pride you bring as a sacrifice to the altar, the more extravagant your worship.
4. If your neighbor isn't at the place you think they should be on a social or political issue, give them time and grace.
5. Give another image bearer time and grace this week.