

## Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

**September 6-12:**     Read **Genesis 4 & Gospel of Mark 1**

### **Genesis 4**

As Genesis 3 is the first sin, Genesis 4 opens with a first murder, the tragic story of Cain and Abel. In some ways, this chapter feels disjointed from chapter 3 because chapter 3 ends with a separation between man and God when Adam and Eve were evicted from the Garden. The flaming sword represented that break. But in chapter 4, God is involved in the lives of Adam and Eve and their children. And there is worship. And there is the presentation of offering.

#### **Further Study & Discussion**

- What does it tell us about God who involves himself in the lives of Adam and Eve in chapter 4 after what happened in chapter 3?
- There was a problem with the two offerings. God accepted Abel's, but rejected Cain's (v.4-5). What was the reason? A family can have a lengthy discussion on this matter – is it the type of offering? Is it the heart? If so, what were the attitudes of the two?
- Cain's anger got the best of him. What could he have done to control his anger? Talk about a time when anger caused you to do the wrong thing.

### **Gospel of Mark 1**

Whereas Gospel of Matthew and Luke begin with the birth story of Jesus, Mark opens his Gospel with Jesus' baptism when he is already 30 years old (Luke 3:23). John the Baptist is introduced first as the one who introduces the main character. Kind of like when we have a guest speaker and I will introduce them before they speak.

#### **Further Study & Discussion**

- God prepared John the Baptist to be the one to introduce Jesus to the world. John did so by preparing people's hearts through his baptism of cleansing, and through the regular proclamation that one greater than he is coming. What does this say about our God? And how does God prepare us in our lives today?
- Before Jesus began his ministry, two things happened. The baptism and the testing. Talk about them and why they were important to Jesus. Talk about how this order might be similar to our own experience.
- Read together Mark 1:40-45 again, the cleansing of the leper. Observe the exchange between the leper and Jesus. And imagine the scene, the leper's hesitation, Jesus' touch, the joy of the leper that caused him to blurt out his testimony to all.