

# Where Is Your Brother?

## Chapter 7

### Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson seven



Objective: To learn some causes of conflict and how to resolve it.



*“Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”*

—Genesis 4:6-7

Reconciliation is a major theme in the Bible. We need to be reconciled to God, and we need to be reconciled to each other. But conflict is one of our biggest problems. Genesis 4 helps us discover some of the causes of conflict and some of the solutions.

Cain and Abel both brought sacrifices to God, but only Abel’s was acceptable. Cain’s heart toward God was not right. Cain’s rejection made him angry and depressed, and he later killed his brother in a moment of rage. Verse 7 is a key to understanding the conflict: if we do what is right and acceptable, we will be acceptable to God and to ourselves, and not have to go through life angry at those who are acceptable. Those who are judgmental toward others will be much happier if they look at themselves and judge themselves first. A person who deals with his own issues will not have to direct his anger at others.

Like a pilot who has lost his way, we should remember five steps to getting back on the right course:

1. Confess – Acknowledge that you have lost your way.
2. Climb – Move in God’s direction (He is already moving in your direction).
3. Conserve – Wait to make any big decisions.
4. Communicate – Talk to God about His direction for your life.
5. Comply – When God communicates, always follow His directions.





*Choose one best answer unless instructed otherwise.*

1. True or false? The first prophecy in the Bible about Jesus is found in Genesis.
2. True or false? When Cain killed Abel, he solved all his problems.
3. True or false? Cain refused to acknowledge his sin until God made it clear that He already knew about it.
4. Why was Cain's sacrifice not acceptable?
  - a. It was not an animal sacrifice.
  - b. It was not enough for God.
  - c. It was too late.
  - d. Cain's heart was not acceptable.
5. Why did Cain kill Abel?
  - a. Abel was too proud of his righteousness.
  - b. Abel was a threat to his brother.
  - c. Cain was jealous that Abel's sacrifice was accepted and became angry
  - d. He still had anger in his heart.
6. Read or listen to Matthew 7:1-5. What does Jesus tell critical and judgmental people to do?
  - a. Look at their own lives and correct their own problems before judging others.
  - b. Point out everyone's faults.
  - c. Use God's standards of judgment on others.
  - d. Relax and do not worry so much.

*Stop judging others, and you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For others will treat you as you treat them. Whatever measure you use in judging others, it will be used to measure how you are judged. <sup>3</sup>And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? <sup>4</sup>How can you think of saying, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>Hypocrite! First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.*

—Matthew 7:1-5

7. Which question is most important to ask when you are angry?
- How can I get revenge?
  - What is the real object of my anger?
  - How can I change the person who offends me?
  - How can I make myself feel better?
8. The story of Cain and Abel is about \_\_\_\_\_.
- conflict
  - peace
  - communication
  - judgment
9. The story of the flood is about \_\_\_\_\_.
- conflict
  - peace
  - communication
  - judgment
10. What relationships cause a lot of conflict for you? (circle all that apply)
- self
  - spouse
  - children
  - parents
  - extended family
  - friends
  - people in authority
  - coworkers
  - acquaintances



What are the real roots of some of your conflicts with others? Is there something you need to confess to God?

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Pray and ask God to help you in all your relationships to have the right heart attitude and do what is right.



## Going Deeper

1. Relate the compass of the jet pilot to your own spiritual direction when you feel that you have lost your way. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What are five questions that God asked Cain? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Which question was the most important question? (Consider Genesis 4:7) Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What was the true source and object of Cain's anger? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What was most important – the men or the offerings? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Compare this story to the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 7: 1-5. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Relate this story to your own anger and/or depression. \_\_\_\_\_

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