

Ponderosa Bible Church
Sermon Based Small Group
Monday, November 21, 2022

As History Moves on...



Genesis 4:16–26

For the Leader: *The person leading the small group really needs to watch the Sermon titled “As History Moves on” on the Ponderosa Bible Church YouTube channel in order to have a full discussion for this small group.*

- *This guide is NOT MEANT to be studied in preparation for the small group you are leading but only to be looked over. This is a guide that is meant to compliment the Study Guide that is given out in the Sunday Morning bulletin. The only work that needs to be done beforehand is to listen to the Sunday Morning message and to use your Study Guide while listening to it. The study guide and the leader guide are your materials for the sermon based small group.*

“Digging Deeper” Fellowship time:

For the leader: *The purpose of these questions is to foster relationship building and to deepen the fellowship of the group.*

Fellowship time suggestion: HELLO EVERYONE....and welcome to the last week of small groups!!! First, I want to say to all of you...”Happy Thanksgiving!!!” I hope you all have a blessed time with your friends and family and find some things to be truly grateful for during this holiday season. **Secondly, because this is the last week of small groups, rather than spend a lot of time in prayer and in discussion about the sermon, why don’t you major on the fellowship! Talk and get to know one another, and if you have time to get to the questions then do that.** Thank you so much for leading a small group this module and I hope you all enjoy the holidays. (:

Sermon Based Study Questions:

For the leader: *A few things to remember while leading this study: (1) You are not TEACHING, you are facilitating! There will be small group leaders who have led a small group that will teach, but that is not the primary purpose of this leader guide, the primary purpose is to help you facilitate. Your job as a small group leader is to facilitate a discussion, not teach a lesson. The pastor has already taught the lesson, now you are trying to start a discussion on what was taught. You are putting a magnifying glass to the teaching and teasing out the details. (2) As a small group leader you want to bring out personal application of the Sunday message (which means you should have listened to it). Ask questions during the discussion, “How does this apply to you? What did you learn? How does this change your views on Christianity?” Etc. Personal application is the goal of the Sermon based small group. (3) It is not the goal of this outline to get through the whole guide, the goal is to foster conversation. While progressing through this guide is a desired outcome, don’t consider getting to the end as “success.” Success as defined by the “sermon based small group” is defined as equal parts fellowship and a deepening study of the Sunday Sermon. (4) Not every sub-point under a question needs to be asked, these are suggestions for you to consider while you are talking about the question from the study guide. If you asked the study guide question and had a good discussion about it then you may not even need to discuss the sub-points. These points exist to help you agitate a discussion.*

This week's text:

Genesis 4:16-26:

Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.

To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say:
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.
If Cain's revenge is sevenfold,
then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold.”

And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.” To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

1. Who did Cain marry?

****Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both****

A. What are your thoughts on Cain's marriage?

-or-

B. What is the difficulty that people have with Cain's marriage?

• **For the leader:** *So, this is a big point of contention among those who choose to not follow Christ. Atheists, Agnostics, and other unbelieving groups will point to this very first lineage and sarcastically say, "Who did Cain have children with? His own sister?!?! Ewwwww." Then they will harden their heart and persist in their unbelief. The simple fact is that back in Cain's day, there was nothing wrong with marrying and having children with your siblings. You kind of HAD TO! But...and there is a really big "but" here, the world wasn't the way that it is now.*

If you ever look into creation science, there is a fascinating study on human genes. Essentially what they figured out is that with each passing generation, the human gene has more and more errors in it. From the fall until the time of Moses this persisted until God commanded that sleeping with and marrying your closest of kin was now a sin (Leviticus 18:6-18). There were no such prohibitions in scripture until this point. As a matter of fact, Sarai was Abram's half sister. Such practices were common. The reason God prohibited this is that by the time of Moses the human genome had become so degraded that if someone were to marry their kin, the errors in the human gene would compound and the ending result

would be that their children would be born with deformities. However, before this, there were no such issues.

Also, there is something else to consider. During Adam and Eve's day, we read about the births of Cain, Abel, and Seth, but we don't know how many other children they had. Remember, these patriarchs were living close to a millennia at a time! These human beings were different from us in many ways. So, we really don't have a clue as to how long the window of childbearing was before menopause set in. This means that theoretically Adam and Eve could have born a hundred children in their lives, and then those children could have born a hundred themselves! By the time you get to the third generation there very well could have been a hundred thousand people on the earth. This is REAL math by the way! All we know about how many children Adam and Eve had comes from Genesis 5:4 which says, "The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died."

So, Cain had many more options of women to marry than we realize.

2. What is the main thought of this portion of Scripture?

****Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both****

A. What points can you see in this portion of scripture?

-or-

B. What are some things that are significant in this passage of scripture?

• **For the leader:** *From what I can tell, the main point of this portion of scripture is to give a kind of account of what happened on the earth with the first of Adam and Eve's descendants. We see the tragic downfall of Cain as he murders his brother, and then we progress into the story of Lamech. After that we get another genealogy that progress in chapter five until the time of Noah.*

3. What is the main idea behind Lamech's boasting?

****Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both****

A. Why would people think that Lamech was boasting?

-or-

B. What was the cause of Lamech's boasting?

• **For the leader:** *So, I don't know that Lamech was actually boasting in these verses. Here is what we know from the scripture, you can talk to each other about what you think it means. Here are the verses:*

Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say:
I have killed a man for wounding me,

a young man for striking me.
If Cain's revenge is sevenfold,
then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold” (Genesis 4:23-24).

You have to think, that if no other murders were committed up until this point, then that would mean the event that Lamech is recounting is only the second murder in human history. This means that it was a rather new thing to murder someone. It seems from reading the passage that Lamech is telling his wives that he murdered out of self-defense. Maybe he overreacted, killed them, and then felt bad. Maybe it was accident. Or, maybe the young man struck him, and then Lamech waited until he had his chance, and murdered him. The point is that the only information we have about this comes from these verses. The main idea that Lamech is saying regarding this event is that he has the same mark that Cain has. He will be avenged even more than Cain should anyone kill Lamech for murdering the young man.

4. What is the difficulty on Gen 4:26?

****Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both****

- A. What kind of difficulty had you heard of regarding Genesis 4:26?
- or-
- B. What is it that scholar's and Pastor Joe say is so difficult about Genesis 4:26?

- **For the leader:** *The difficulty with Genesis 4:26 comes in this little phrase: “At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.”” If this phrase is read out of context or without understanding the Hebrew language, then you might think that people were beginning to acknowledge their need for God and were calling on him. However, this is simply not the case. The Hebrew language seems to indicate that this is a statement of idolatry. Essentially what is being said here in these few words is that “At this time the people began to petition other gods.” They weren’t calling on God, they were running away from him and creating other God.*

There is a different understanding of this phrase and it is in the original Hebrew phrasing. The other way this could be understood is “At that time people began to defy God.” Either way, the Hebrew rendition of this sentence makes it plain that people began to defy God more deliberately at this point.

5. What is important about Lamech’s genealogy?

See 5:28-29.

****Ask ONE of the following UNLESS you think it will make for a better discussion to ask both****

A. Why would God choose to bring Noah through Lamech?

-or-

B. What does Noah’s coming through Lamech say about Lamech?

- **For the leader:** *Plain and simple, the importance of Lamech’s genealogy was that Noah came through it.*

PLEASE READ, VERY IMPORTANT!!! How you close your meeting is very important so even if you do not get through all the questions and even if you stick on one point for far longer than you anticipated, please decide how you plan on ending your meeting before it has even started. It would even be good to choose a talking point to end the meeting on about ten minutes before it ends. Also decide who is going to pray to close out the meeting. Ending a meeting in an abrupt manner leads to a very awkward meeting. So have your last talking point ready to go along with someone chosen to pray in order to close the meeting smoothly.