



# LIFEGROUPS

Series: *First Things First*

Scripture: *Genesis 4:2-8*

Date: November 9-10, 2019

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—[ LET'S START ]—

**GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.

—[ LET'S TALK ]—

1. This week's sermon introduced us to priorities. What things in your life do you wish you prioritized more? What things do you wish you prioritized less?
2. Read Genesis 4:2-10. What do you notice about the differences between Cain and Abel's offerings? Why do you think God accepted one and rejected the other?
3. Cain and Abel had two very different hearts. How can we tell from this passage that God was first in Abel's heart, but not in Cain's heart?
4. How can we tell if God is first in our life?
5. Giving the first of something to God demonstrates gratitude and an awareness that God created everything. How might you be tempted to take credit for what you've been given?
6. Hebrews 11:4 says that Abel's offering was done in faith. Why is faith important in giving your first to God? If you're not giving in faith, by what means are you giving?
7. Have you ever put God consistently first in your day? What kind of difference did this make?
8. Read Isaiah 29:13 and Hosea 6:6 What do these verses tell us about what God cares about in our devotion to him?
9. Think about the different ways we can give to God—worship, serving, prayer, giving and others. Have any of these things ever felt like a duty or a routine? What made it that way? How can we prevent that?

—[ LET'S ACT ]—

What would it look like this week for you to have more of a heart like Abel's and less of a heart like Cain's? Identify some ways and then pray that God will help you.

—[ SERMON REVIEW ]—

- A priority is something that is more important than other things and that needs to be done and dealt with first. This weekend we're asking: What does it mean for God to be first in your life?
- Genesis 4:2-10 - Why did God accept Abel's offering but not Cain's?
  - Was there something about the size or type of the offering? Was God playing favorites?
  - The two offerings reflected each of the brother's relationship with God. God was first in Abel's life; he wasn't in Cain's.
- Giving your first to God isn't just about what you give God, it's about the sequence and sincerity in which you give it.
  - What we give God is a reflection of our relationship with God; how important he is to us. We need to talk about what we give God and how we give it.
- Sequence: You give first to what's first in your life.
  - Genesis 4:3-4 – Cain brought some of his fruits, but Abel brought the first of his flock.
  - Giving the first shows gratitude and recognition that God is the creator of all things (Psalm 24:1)
  - Giving the first show faith, because you're trusting God to provide the rest (Hebrews 11:4)
  - Give God the first of your day
    - What's the first thing you do in the morning? What does this say about what's important to you?
  - Give God the first of your week
    - Don't just show up at worship services when it's convenient, make it a priority!
- Sincerity: Putting God first means paying attention to the condition of your heart.
  - Cain's response to God's rejection showed that his heart was in the wrong place.
  - The heart is the battlefield of our devotion to God.
  - It's easy for insincerity to creep into our hearts
    - Isaiah 29:13; Hosea 6:6
- Giving your first to God starts by seeing that God gave his first for you in Jesus.

—[ NOTES ]—

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