

Sermon series: The Story of [Your] Life
 Text: Genesis 4; James 1:13-15; 4:1-3
 Delivered: June 4th, 2023
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The Story of Conflict

BIG IDEA: The cycle of sin that brings conflict and death is resolved by a compassionate God through the cross of Christ.

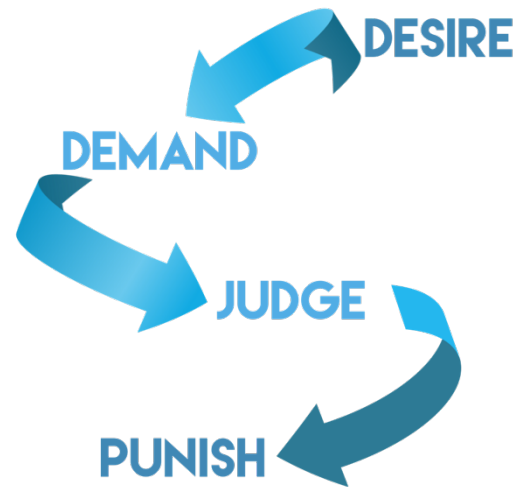
THE STORY OF CONFLICT

1. The _____ of Conflict. (Genesis 4:1-5)

2. The _____ of Conflict. (Genesis 4:5-7; James 1:13-15; 4:1-2)

3. The _____ of Conflict. (Genesis 4:8-16)

4. The _____ of Conflict. (Genesis 4:15-25)



THE STEPS OUT OF CONFLICT

1. _____ (James 4:7)
2. _____ (James 4:7)
3. _____ (James 1:19-20)

THE SUPPORT THROUGH CONFLICT

1. D_____ N_____ (James 4:8)
2. S_____ H_____ (James 4:8)
3. G_____ W_____ (James 4:8)
4. C_____ P_____ (James 4:8)



Describe a situation where things escalated faster than you expected or wanted. Can you remember how it started? Was there any fallout from it or just a funny story? How has it impacted how you deal with similar situations now?

What is the most recent conflict you experienced? Did it end well or poorly? Why did it end that way?

What do you remember from the first time you heard the story of Cain and Abel? What were the lessons you always took away from that story, either as a child or as an adult? Why did you think Cain was so angry and killed his brother as a result?

What does the fact that God rejected Cain's offering because of his heart and attitude rather than his choice of offering tell us about what God desires/requires in worship even today? How would this understanding impact the way we approach Sunday morning worship as well as daily worship of God?

The tendency in reading a passage or hearing a story like that of Cain and Abel is to moralize it, or in other words, use it to help us know what behavior is right and what is wrong? However, Joel mentioned that this is not a story about morals, but a story about God. . .about humanity. . .about us? From what you either read (**Genesis 4**) or heard in the message, what does this passage tell us about God? **HINT:** there are 5 things. 1.) God is to be _____; 2.) God cares more about the _____ than the offering; 3.) God is full of mercy, _____, love, and faithfulness; 4.) God is _____; and 5.) God has a _____.

In the message, Joel shared the constant characteristics of conflict that are motivated by a **desire** that isn't met, which leads to a **demand** for that desire, which leads to **judgment** because of that unmet demand, and ultimately **punishment** for the person not providing it. As you look at the conflicts you have faced recently, how did that downward spiral play into the development of that conflict? Try to list as many different areas conflict can arise from this spiral? How does **James 1:13-15** and **4:1-3** inform our understanding of this?

How is sin described in **Genesis 4:7**? Read **1 Peter 5:8**. How is Satan described in that verse? What do both of these verses teach us about the temptations towards sin and conflict we face in our lives? How does this imagery play out in the life of Cain in thought, word, and action?

Do you think it's possible to resist the urge to give in to sin in the midst of conflict? Why or why not? **HOW** can we fight the urge to give in to anger, rage, bitterness, jealousy, envy, and aggression? Read **Romans 6** either with your CARE group or individually. How does this passage inform our position in Christ and power over the sin that seeks to dominate and destroy us?