

Crying Out from the Ground

(Genesis 4:10-12)

Yearly Theme: “Love Is...”

Series Title: *Don't Be Jealous*

June 23rd, 2019

Something to think about:

Before we get into today's message, I want to bring some clarity and distinction to what may seem like a contradiction: *God's jealousy of us.*

The difference between human jealousy and divine jealousy is *insecurity*. Human jealousy is rooted in insecurity. God's jealousy is rooted in His love for humanity. Human jealousy drives a person inward, whereas divine jealousy drives God outward. With this in mind, the inward spiral of jealousy, anger and dejection that Cain experienced led him to do the most horrible thing imaginable: *murder*. But murder has consequences. What are those consequences? Let's take a look:

Genesis 4:10-12 (NLT)

¹⁰ But the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹ Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood. ¹² No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”

As we focus on verses 10-12 today, what's the takeaway?

Key Point: “Jealousy's punishment is the bitter curse of isolation.”

Jealousy isolates and separates. Rooted in sin, jealousy takes us away from our created purpose and places us in the territory of the Enemy in order to do his bidding. Isolation is the consequence and the punishment for allowing jealousy (and sin of any kind) to control your life. Let's take a look at Cain's punishment...

- **Cursed and banished from the ground.**

Genesis 4:11-12a (NLT), ¹¹ Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood. ^{12a} No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work!

Jealousy takes, but love gives. Jealousy destroys, but love builds up. Jealousy isolates and banishes, but love secures and receives. Like Cain, we all have a choice: We can control and subdue sin that crouches at our door, or we can open the door do it and allow it to control us and isolate us from God and others.

- **Homeless wanderer.**

Genesis 4:12b (NLT), From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”

Cain was cursed to be a homeless wanderer, not because of what God had done to him, but because of what Cain had done to himself. However, those who surrender their lives to Christ and follow after Him know the way home because He is the Way home!

Something to take home:

It's interesting that jealousy does the exact opposite of what a person really desires. Jealousy draws a wedge between us and the object of the one we are jealous of. Instead of drawing us closer together, jealousy banishes us from the person or groups that we desire to be closer to.

In Cain's case, jealousy separated him from God and the rest of his family. Jealousy drove Cain to kill what separated him from what he desired from God. And, instead of doing what was right and being accepted by God, Cain chose to give in to his baser instincts, and the sinful nature that he allowed to control him, and he suffered the consequence of banishment and homelessness.

Today, some of us are in the same boat that Cain was in; we've allowed sin to control us, we've allowed the bitter root of jealousy to isolate and separate us from the ones we love the most. However, it's not too late. Jealousy and sin can be subdued and put back outside our lives. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, by taking our sin upon Himself, we now have the great privilege of having the punishment of our sin absolved. When we surrender our lives to Christ, sin and jealousy are broken in our lives and subdued by the One who gave His life for us. It's time. Let Jesus have His way in your life. Surrender to Him today.

NOTES:

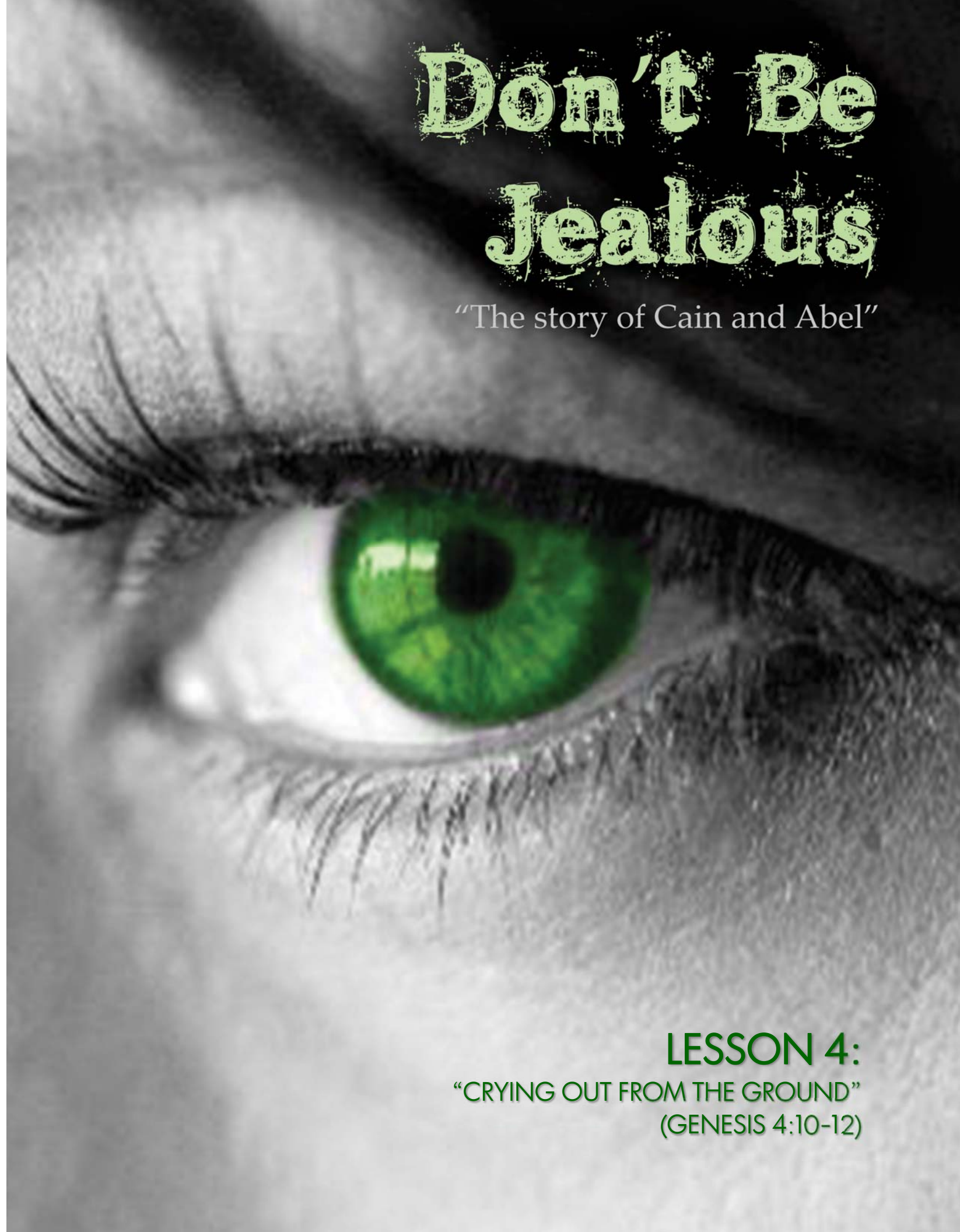


North Main Exists to...

“Develop completely committed followers of Christ who:

- Know** Christ intimately,
- Grow** in Christ continually, and,
- Go** for Christ daily;

Through:
Core Families,
Community Partnerships, and
Global Connections.”



Don't Be Jealous

“The story of Cain and Abel”

LESSON 4: “CRYING OUT FROM THE GROUND” (GENESIS 4:10-12)

Crying Out from the Ground

(Genesis 4:10-12)

Series Title: *Don't Be Jealous*

KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ How would you define the word “punishment?”
- ⇒ Have you ever been punished? Explain...

SCRIPTURE: (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

Genesis 4:1-16 (NLT)

¹ Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the LORD’s help, I have produced a man!”² Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground.

³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

⁶ “Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected?”⁷ You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

⁸ One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

⁹ Afterward the LORD asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

¹⁰ But the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground!”¹¹ Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother’s blood. ¹² No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”

¹³ Cain replied to the LORD, “My punishment is too great for me to bear!”¹⁴ You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!”

¹⁵ The LORD replied, “No, for I will give a sevenfold punishment to anyone who kills you.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him. ¹⁶ So Cain left the LORD’s presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Give a brief synopsis of what is going on in the text for today’s study. Specifically focus on verses 10-12.

2. After Cain killed Abel, and after God confronted Cain about it, what does God tell Cain his punishment will be (v. 11-12)?

3. How is Cain’s punishment similar to his father, Adam’s, punishment (read Genesis 3:17-19)? How are they different?

4. Cain’s punishment banished him from the ground and caused him to be a homeless wanderer on the earth. What does it mean to be “banished from the ground,” and to be a “homeless wanderer?” How does jealousy and sin isolate a person?

5. Cain wanted God’s approval and acceptance, and when he didn’t get it he acted out rather than changing his ways. Instead of responding in love and changing his ways, Cain allowed sin to control him. How are jealousy and love different from one another?

6. Jealousy, much like “fool’s gold,” makes a person feel like they have treasure, when they really only have a fake. How does jealousy and sin lead us further from the truth rather than closer toward it?

7. Cain was cursed to be a homeless wanderer, not because of what God had done to him, but because of what Cain had done to himself. How does sin lead a person further from home?

8. Read John 14:1-4. How can a person find their way back home?

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **IT’S INTERESTING** that jealousy does the exact opposite of what a person really desires to happen. Jealousy draws a wedge between us and the object of the one we are jealous of. Instead of drawing us closer together, jealousy banishes us from the person or groups that we desire to be closer to.
- ⇒ **SOME OF YOU KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE** to be lost and alone. Some of you know what it means to be desperate and longing for peace. Some of you understand the feeling of hopelessness, and don’t even feel comfortable in your own skin. Take heart! There is a God, and there is a Savior, and he does prepare homes for us. But those homes can only be prepared for the people who surrender their lives, their desires, their hopes and their dreams to Christ.
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES:** *Genesis 4:10-12; John 14:1-4.*