

Faith in Action/Faith Overcoming Fear

Lesson Title:

Biblical Text(s): Genesis 3:1-10, 4: 1-12, Hebrews 11: 4

Objectives/Main Points How to Give to God

1. Fear first shows up in the garden: fear is the product of being separated from God
2. How do you face fears you do not know about? This is the essence of anxiety.
 - a. How did Adam know he was naked?
 - b. Did Able have any idea Cain would kill him? How might this have affected Seth?
3. Responding to the Seeds of Doubt in Our Minds
4. Understanding Our Role in God's Eyes

Introduction (a paragraph or two)

The first thing Adam does after sin enters into humanity is hide from God—because he is afraid. Previously man has walked and talked with God. Man named the animals. Imagine coming face to face with a lion and being so at peace that you name it rather than run from it.

Many see the story of Cain and Abel as a cautionary tale about two brothers and the effects that sin can have on one's life, but there is more that can be drawn from the story.

Fear comes from separation from God

Genesis 3:1-10

The first instance of fear in recorded history is in the garden. Sin has separated man from God. God looks for Adam (side note—God is seeking a relationship with everyone even those not seeking Him), and Adam hides because he is naked and afraid.

Genesis 3:9-10

9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Giving to God

Supporting Scripture *Genesis 4: 4, Hebrews 11: 4*

Faith in Action/Faith Overcoming Fear

Many of us question if what we have enough to give to God or what we give him is good enough. Abel shows how it is not the quantity of what you give to God, but the quality of what we give him. Abel raised the livestock the best he could, only to sacrifice them for God. As we work on our own spiritual walk and sacrifice everyday to follow him, we show the quality of what we have to give to him. He remembers each of us and the sacrifices we give to him. God shows us again with Abel in Hebrews 11 that he did not forget about Abel after his death, but that his offerings were to be a standard of what we give to God.

Understanding Our Role in God's Eyes

Supporting Scripture *Hebrews 11*

God has a plan for each of us and uses our talents to teach and grow others. In Abel's case, the story with his brother has taught generations about how to praise God and what can happen when sin invades our lives. God has faith in you.

Discussion Questions (Discussion questions can go after each section or at the end)

1. How does fear affect our relationship with God today? What or why do you hide from Him?
2. Does fear of the unknown affect you?
3. How does evil in the world affect you? (Scripture doesn't tell us Seth was afraid of Cain, but it is quite plausible)

Conclusion

Fear is woven through the stories Paul references in Hebrews 11. The characters we see are not only the "Heroes of Faith", but also champions of conquering fear. We will see throughout this study many instances of fear, but each was seemingly conquered by faith.