

2007-08 BSP#8 Group Time Discussion

L – Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.

(A) “He Opened to Us the Scriptures” – Scripture-Related Questions for Reflection and Discussion (Time available: 15 minutes. Do at least 2 questions.)

1. [L] Look at Eve’s comment after the birth of Cain (4:1). She recognized that this son was a gift from God. Why was Eve’s statement a hopeful sign in this new life outside Eden?
2. [M] Surely God knew where Abel was; why do you think He asked Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” (4:9)
3. [H] Read Genesis 4:17-24 Cain was the first city-builder. Compare the city he built with modern day cities which are generally cultural and musical, technological advanced, filled with violence, and women are often treated as objects for sex pleasure instead of as covenant partners. Do you find similar characteristics in the first city built by Cain?

(B) “Did Not Our Hearts Burn?” – Question(s) for Group Meditation and Prayerful Reflection. (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

In this evening’s scriptural study, we learned about Cain’s offering being rejected by God. We don’t know for sure why God found Cain’s offering displeasing, but perhaps Cain had made the offering perfunctorily, without generosity or gratitude. Perhaps he had offered the leftovers and not the first fruit. When you give to God, whether it is time or money, service, attention, helping people in need, or anything else, do you give your best or your “leftovers”? Consider in your heart what has been given you and what you should return out of thanks to God. Share your self-assessment honestly with your group members. What and how can you do better? Do you feel “motivated” to do better?