

House On The Rock Life Group Study outline 2022

October: Hearing God

Week 1 – Responding to God’s voice ([Zoom link: Joint Session](#))

SPECIAL JOINT LIFE GROUP SESSION ON THURSDAY 17 November, 8.00-9.15 PMp

Introduction

The story is told early in the bible of two brothers. They grew up in the same family, ate the same food and had very similar early experiences in life. These brothers had access to God. Their parents had taught them about YahWeh, the Creator God, and they both had the opportunity to hear from God Himself. What a wonderful life they must have had, where they had every reason to live perfectly aligned with God’s will. Right?

Wrong.

Cain murdered his brother Abel and became a fugitive for the rest of his life. From what we know of the story, both brothers offered up sacrifices to God. While God accepted Abel’s offering, He rejected Cain’s. Why did God reject Cain’s offering? What God says to Cain when he became angry about this rejection is very instructive. Gen 4:6-7 ⁶“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. ⁷“Why do you look so dejected? ⁷You 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.”

So, what do we know? We know that God spoke to both Cain and Abel and told them what they should do, otherwise how would Cain have known what was right? We know that Cain responded differently from Abel to what he heard. The rest is history.

Now we also know one more thing: among those who have heard God speak to them, the difference in where they end up is often because of how they choose to respond.

Pilot text

Gen 4:3-7 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 portions 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.”

- Reflections on the introduction and pilot texts [Open discussion]
 - What resonates from the introduction and pilot texts?
- How should we respond to God’s voice?