



## Genesis 4:17-26 Small Group Questions

1. What does Genesis 4:17 and following teach us about God's attitude toward Cain?

That God is continually patient, extending his longsuffering to Cain so as to motivate Cain unto repentance.

Also, that God is wanting Cain to live with a sense of the guilt of his sin since he rejected God's former offers of grace and arrogantly hardened his heart against the Lord.

2. What does Genesis 4:17 and following teach us about Cain's response toward God?

That he continued to harden his heart. Cain is discontent with God's common grace and protective accommodation. Cain didn't believe God prior to his murderous act and he continued in unbelief. He was to be a wanderer. Instead he decided that he would take protective measures into his own hands by building a fortified city and by seeking to surround himself with friendship and community.

3. What was Cain trying to accomplish when he built a city? Why was this an act of rebellion against God? How does his naming of the city reflect this rebellion?

Cain was essentially saying, "Forget about creation. I will initiate civilization." Cain was building an anti-Christian society where man would live exclusively for self. God had protected Cain and would have forgiven him if he had turned to the Lord, accepted his chastisement and embraced the Gospel promise of Gen. 3:15. Instead of being a wanderer, Cain decided to "fill the earth and subdue it" for his own glory. Cain named the city after the son born in his own rebellious image.

4. What is significant about the genealogy of Cain?

All of his descendants were like him. There is no mention of their hoping in the Lord or in his promise of redemption. They are all inventors, taking the things of earth and making them for their own sinful uses.

5. What can we take away from the references to the inventions and accomplishments of Cain's descendants?

Tubal-Cain may have taken the bronze or metal that he worked with to make a sword with which to kill the young man who wounded him. Additionally, it appears as though--from the Hebrew construct--that he wrote a song of self-vindication that would be played on an instrument that he predecessor had made. All that was developed by Cain's descendants was used for self-serving purposes.

6. What other city is mentioned in Genesis 4:17-26? Who built it? What are some characteristics of this city?

The City of God. God, by His sovereign grace in redeeming some of the descendants of Adam. The men and women of it were committed to "calling on the Lord" in prayer. Nothing is mentioned of their desire to create a city for themselves.



# New Covenant

*P r e s b y t e r i a n C h u r c h*

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7. What does the rest of the Scriptures tell us about the City of God? What name does God place on it? How does God take those things that Cain's descendents invented and use them in the building of His City?

The church is the city of God. The end of the Bible has a glorious picture of this city coming down out of heaven as a Bride adorned for her Husband--Christ. The writer of Hebrews also tells us that "here we have no continuing city but we seek the one to come whose builder and maker was God. Additionally, Paul tells us that our citizenship is in heaven, from which we eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ..." In the unfolding of redemptive history, God takes the things that Cain's descendants invented and uses them in building his own city--a tent for His dwelling, instruments for his praises and metal and bronze for parts of the Tabernacle and Temple.

8. What are some of the marks of belonging to the city of men? What are some marks of belonging to the City of God?

Anything associated with laboring for self, pleasure or laying up for ourselves the things of earth.

Everything associated with living for Christ, sacrificing worldly pleasures and ambitions and pursuing heavenly mindedness and heavenly treasure.