November 15, 2026 Mountaintop Church

# STUDY GUIDE




## WEEK 4

### THE FRACTURE

## Opening Question

Can you recall a time when comparing yourself to someone else led to discouragement or frustration? How did it affect your actions and attitude?

## KEY SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 4:1-26 (NIV)

## Message Recap

Comparison is a trap that has plagued humanity since the beginning, as seen in the story of Cain and Abel. God consistently calls us to focus on our own character, honor our connections with others, and trust in His compassion, even when we fail. Instead of letting comparison rule our decisions, we are invited to worship God authentically and call on His name for renewal.

## Discussion Questions



### HEAD CHANGE
(Understanding)

1. Why do you think God responded differently to Cain's and Abel's offerings? What does this show about the difference between "some" and "first" in our giving (Genesis 4:3-5 NIV)?

2. How does the story of Cain and Abel challenge common beliefs about fairness and equality among people?



### HEART CHANGE
(Belief/Emotional Response)

3. When have you found yourself giving out of "ought to" instead of "want to"? How did that affect your sense of worship and connection to God?

4. Reflect on how jealousy or rivalry might have impacted a relationship in your life. How did it affect your view of yourself and your actions toward others?



### HABIT CHANGE
(Action/Practice)

5. What's one way you can be intentional about putting God first in your offering (your time, resources, or energy)?

6. How can you actively work to believe that God loves you no matter what you've done? Are there habits that might make this truth more evident in your life?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Comparison diverts our focus from our unique calling and purpose.
- Authentic worship flows from a willing heart, not simply obligation.
- God values the intent and priority behind our offerings, not just the gift itself.
- We are responsible for the way we treat others.
- Even when we fail, God's compassion and willingness to provide a new future remain.

## Next Steps

- **Reflect:** Take inventory of areas in your life where you tend to compare yourself to others. Pray for clarity to embrace your own unique calling.
- **Memorize:** Genesis 4:7 (NIV) - "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."
- **Share:** Listen for people in your circle that might feel that they are too far gone, share with them the truth that God is still for them.
- **Pray:** Ask God to help you shift from "ought to" to "want to" in your worship and offerings. Pray for increased empathy and connection in your relationships.
- **Encourage:** Seek out someone in your community group or church who may feel overlooked or less-than. Affirm their unique gifts and contributions.