

SUFFERING

LESSON 2: Intentional Harm (Abuse and Attacks)

ANCHOR STATEMENT: There is nothing taken by intentional harm that God cannot heal or restore. When we remember God's mercy for us, His promise of restoration, and His desire that all should repent, we are empowered to share this truth with others who desperately need it.

MAIN PASSAGE: Genesis 4:3-16

3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord . 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the first born of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 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.” 8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” 10 The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. 11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.” 13 Cain said to the Lord , “My punishment is more than I can bear. 14 Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” 15 But the Lord said to him, “Not so ; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. 16 So Cain went out from the Lord ’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO KNOW: That God is always ready to comfort the oppressed, and He promises to heal, rebuild, and act justly on behalf of His people.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY’VE LEARNED: Understand that God desires to comfort all who have been harmed, for all to know Him, and for all to repent of their sins. This includes those who intentionally harm others.