

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Series:** Shattered  
**Title:** When Life's Not Fair  
**Text:** Genesis 4:1-16  
**Speaker:** Matt Ewert  
**Date:** November 17, 2019



## WARM-UP

Share one thing that stood out to you from this past weekend's worship service.

## DISCUSSION

Share a time or situation in which you strongly felt the sentiment that "Life's Not Fair."

In the teaching this weekend, Pastor Matt pointed out that though the New Testament author James affirms that God doesn't show favoritism, that doesn't mean that everyone's experience in life is the same. It is clear from that, compared to the average, some people experience more than their fair share of pain and suffering, while others seem to experience an inordinate amount of blessing.

- As a Christian, how do you feel about the inequity in the world?
- Is it easy for you to reconcile God's sovereignty with the seeming unfairness of life?
- Is this a line of thinking that you wrestle with?

**Read Genesis 4:1-12. Note that God favors Abel and not Cain, though no real explanation is given. On top of that, God expects Cain to "do well" as he struggles with what he perceives as God's mistreatment of him.**

- When you experience the "unfairness" of life, are you tempted to lower the standards for how you live and act? Do you find it easier to justify negative or destructive behaviors when things aren't going well?
  - \* If so, why?
- Do God's expectations for how you live change when you experience hardship, compared to when life is going well?

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. Consider the statement in verse 13, reading it alongside Genesis 4:6-7.**

- What is the hope that we can cling to when we find ourselves in the kind of situation Cain was in?

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## DISCUSSION

- Note the word "endure" (some translations say "bear"). What does that tell you about the way God meets you in temptation? Does "doing well" in the face of temptation mean that the difficulty disappears?

### **Read the finish to the story of Cain (Genesis 4:13-16)**

- In what way does the grace of God show up even in the face of Cain's egregious failure (his murder of his brother)?

### **Spend time praying for those in your group who are experiencing the negative side of life's unfairness.**

- Pray that God would "give them a way out" from the temptations that inevitably come with life's hardships.
- Pray that God would strengthen them to be able to "do well" in the middle of adversity.