

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## IN THE BEGINNING: WEEK 4

*While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to [southeastchristian.org](http://southeastchristian.org) to join a group in person or online, wherever you are - today!*

How do you usually respond when you hear a knock at your front door? Does it make a difference if it's an expected visitor or an unexpected one? Does it matter if it's a familiar face or a stranger? Why are we so careful about who we let into our homes? How much more careful should we be about the things we allow in our hearts?

Read Genesis 4:1-12. What happened as Adam and Eve began their new life outside of the Garden of Eden? What happened between their sons Cain and Abel? How quickly did the presence and power of sin escalate? As you read this story, who do you find yourself identifying with more – Cain or Abel? Why?

Why was Cain so angry and dejected? How did God try to warn and encourage Cain? Why do you think Cain blamed his brother Abel rather than looking at his own heart? In what ways can sin convince us that the problem is really with others rather than ourselves? How does sin seize on our inadequacies and comparison with others?

“Sin is always knocking, but you don't have to let it in.” Why was it so hard for Cain to heed this warning from God? Why is it so hard for us? How does sin convince us that it is inevitable? How does it convince us that we are powerless? What are some ways Jesus' example/power helps us to overcome temptation?

Read James 1:14-15. What does James tell us about the sequence of temptation to sin in these verses? In what ways does sin lead to death? How have you seen it kill relationships, dreams, careers, etc.? What are some of the ways sin deceives us and hides its true cost?

As you close your time together, read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What promise does Paul offer us in this verse? What do you think it means? How have you seen God provide a way out of temptation? Pray that God would empower you each this to see how He has provided a way out of the temptations you will face this week.