

Small Group Study Guide



May 27, 2018

“The Forecast”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your strength and faithful love. We know that you created us to be in relationships and how important relationships are in our lives. As we go through this series, help us to see the climate in each of our relationships and which relationships need a climate change. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Genesis 4:2-9 New International Version (NIV)

2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 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 firstborn 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.”[a] 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?”



INTRODUCTION

You have an emotional climate. It goes with you everywhere. You can't see it. But it's a big deal. Research shows that the number one obstacle people face in their relationships and careers is an inability to understand the emotional climate of the people around them and to recognize their own emotional climate. We've all been around people like that. What if you are that person?

This week, ask three people one question: "What's it like to be on the other side of me?" Sit down with a notepad and listen to their responses. Don't interrupt, apologize, rationalize, or defend. You'll hear things that will encourage and surprise you. You'll hear things that will hurt your feelings. You can dismiss what you hear or take it to your heavenly Father in prayer and ask for help.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Talk about someone you enjoy being around. What do you like about that person?
- 2) Why do our relationships feel less urgent than our jobs and other responsibilities? What can you do to prioritize relationships?
- 3) What could you lose by ignoring the climate of the relationships in your life?
- 4) Read Genesis 4:8–9 on page 1. What does it mean to be "your brother's keeper"?
- 5) Which of your relationships needs a climate change—marriage, kids, friends, coworkers, boss? What do you need to do to begin to change the climate?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, ask three people one question: "What's it like to be on the other side of me?"