

OH BROTHER!

EXPLORING A TOPIC IN SCRIPTURE

On Episode 78 of the *More Than a Song Podcast* we used NeedToBreathe's song "Brother" as a catalyst to explore the relationship between David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel. Although these two men were not brothers by genealogy, they became spiritual brothers (and ultimately ended up being brothers-in-law.) However, the topic of "brothers" can lead us to some pretty great stories in the Bible. Use this resource to go on a topical adventure!

There are a few things I want to challenge you to do as you explore this topic.

First, I want you to **actively read** these stories. Active reading is reading something with a determination to understand and evaluate it for its relevance to your needs...your need to know and understand God better and to know and understand how it can apply to your own life.

Next, I want you **read in context**. The great thing about the topic of "brothers" is that it will lead us to stories in the Bible -- and to understand a story, you need to read it in context. By doing this, you are flexing your "context" muscle that will keep you in the habit of always studying God's Word in context.

Finally, I want to challenge you to **think critically** about what you are reading. This should naturally come out of active reading, but goes a step further. I want you to **ask questions** while you are reading, **write a summary** of what you've read, **come to conclusions** based on your currently knowledge and experience, and then **share with others** (sow the seed you've received.)

Example: Cain and Abel in Genesis 4

actively read!

think critically!

Ask questions:

Who was born first? *Cain is firstborn and Abel is his baby brother*

What is the meaning of their names? *The meaning of Cain is "spear". The meaning of Abel is "breath".*

How old are they when we "meet" them? *They are grown up and have chosen different careers*

What seems to be Cain's personality? *Possibly short tempered...wears his emotions on his sleeve*

What seems to be Abel's personality? *Obedient to God and trusts his brother*

Which brother am I most like? *If I'm honest...Cain*

In what ways? *I sometimes bring my "some" instead of "the best of the first" and want to feel justified*

More questions: How did each brother respond? How could they have responded differently? What is God's role in this story? What do I learn about God the Father in this area of Scripture? What did God say? How did Cain respond? What was the result? What are YOUR questions?

Conclusion: *God wasn't out to "get" Cain for his mistake. In fact, God reminded Cain of the standard, gave a warning, and challenged him to do what was right. The consequence of his disobedience was death and broken relationship with God and his family...not worth it.*

don't forget to share what you've learned!

You try it!

Cain & Abel - Genesis 4

Joseph & his brothers - Genesis 37-45

Jacob & Esau - Genesis 25-33

The prodigal son - Luke 15