

## **UNKNOWN BIBLE STORIES**

### **PART 2 - SIBLING RIVALRIES**

#### **Collecting our thoughts:**

- 1) Where are you in the birth order of your siblings?
  - Did this affect how you were parented?  
(Unless you're GenX who wasn't parented)
  - Did your parents have a "favorite"? (Of course, they won't admit this)
- 2) Why do siblings fight?
- 3) At what point do siblings start to "get along"?

#### **II) A new take on some (un)familiar Bible Stories**

##### **A) Cain & Abel - Genesis 4:2b-16**

- 1) What was Cain's "job"?
- 2) What did Abel do for a living?
- 3) How did their vocations set them up for conflict?
- 4) Where / how did they learn about sacrifice? (Moses is still 2,000+ years away)
- 5) What did Cain offer to God?
- 6) What did Abel offer to God?
- 7) Why was Abel's offering better than Cain's?
- 8) How is the real "problem" a heart problem?
- 9) Does this apply to the Church today?
- 10) How does Cain try to correct the situation?
- 11) What does it mean that "your brother's blood cries to me from the ground"?
- 12) What is Cain's punishment?
  - How would being "uprooted" be unbearable for a farmer?

##### **B) Aaron & Miriam & Moses - Numbers 12:1-15**

- 1) Did you have a sibling who was an "attention hound"?
- 2) What did Moses do to "trigger" his siblings?
- 3) What is the real issue between the three of them?
- 4) How does the LORD act like a parent here?
- 5) What was the LORD's critique of Aaron and Miriam?

- 6) Why didn't anything happen to Aaron?
- 7) Have you had an example where you got punished for your sibling's crime?
- 8) What was so bad about Miriam's "punishment"?
- 9) Did the punishment fit the crime?
- 10) How would this week of exclusion help remedy the cause of the strife?
- 11) How did Miriam's penalty affect the whole community?
- 12) Has a sibling's punishment ever affected the whole family?

**C) Abimelech and the 70 sons of Jerub-Baal (aka Gideon) - Judges 9:1-25 (57), 50-57**

- 1) How is the problem of legitimacy as old as time?
- 2) How would you know which of Gideon's 71 sons should be king?
- 3) What was Abimelech's "ace in the hole"?
- 4) What do you find striking about Jotham's parable?
- 5) Did "fire come out from Abimelech" on the citizens of Shechem? (See verse 49)
- 6) What was Abimelech's final fear?
- 7) When have you and your siblings been "partners in crime"?

**D) Some other Biblical sibling rivalries to check out**

- 1) Jacob and Esau - Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-40, 32:1-33:17
- 2) Joseph and his brothers - Genesis 37-50
- 3) Absalom and Amnon (sons of David) - 2 Samuel 13-18
- 4) Adonijah and Solomon - I Kings 2:13-46
- 5) The Elder brother of the prodigal son - Luke 15:11-32

**E) The more things change, the more they stay the same**

- 1) What sibling rivalries do we see in our culture today?
  - the Kardashians?
  - Eli & Peyton Manning
- 2) Is the solution for this to only have one child?
  - population collapse is coming?
- 3) How do you "make peace" with your siblings?