

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 31 March 2019**

**Speaker:** Andy McCullough

**Title:** Eve's Story

**Passage:** Genesis 4

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Eve was the first mother and, in a way, the mother of us all. Eve means "life-giver" – what an incredible name! Her story is our story. In amongst the pain and loss of being thrown out of the garden, the Lord God promised that she would produce a "seed" who would crush the monster and save everyone (Genesis 3:15).

In Genesis 4:1-2 we are told that Eve had two sons. Cain means "I have produced" or "see what I've done!" and speaks of self-sufficiency. Abel means "breath" and speaks of meaninglessness.

Where did Eve learn how to be a mother? Well, male and female were both made in the image of God. Although God is consistently described as Father, and with male pronouns, there are places in Scripture that speak of the mothering activity of God. Here are some examples: Deuteronomy 32:18, Isaiah 66:13, Luke 13:34. This gives dignity to motherhood – the source of this noble calling is God himself!

In Genesis 4:8 we read that Cain killed his brother Abel, and then was judged and exiled. So Eve has lost two sons: one killed, one gone. As a mother, how does she feel? How would you have felt?

We react in different ways to the brokenness in the world. Either perfectionistic and controlling, or anxious and fearful, or depressed and hopeless. Since Eve, many of us have struggled with these coping mechanisms.

We don't know how long that season lasted for Eve. Right at the end of Genesis 4, we see a glimmer of hope. She has a son called Seth, which means "God has appointed" (Genesis 4:25-26). Look at Eve's journey! She has gone from "See what I've done (with the help of God)" to "God has appointed for me!" Now God is the subject of the sentence. She has gone from self-reliance to God-reliance.

Ultimately, from Seth's line will come Jesus Christ (Luke 3:37-38). And through the death of Jesus, God shows his tenderness, compassion and comfort. He does what all mothers wish they could do but are not able to do: he wipes away every tear, he crushes the snake's head, he takes all the pain upon himself so that his children can be whole and happy and peaceful.

**Eve's story is our story. Where are you in this story?**

**Suggested questions:**

1. Eve must have been looking back on a happy past in the garden. Do you sometimes feel nostalgic, looking back on a better time? How do you cope with this feeling?
2. Is Mother's Day a happy day or a sad day for you? Why?
3. What did God say to you on Sunday, and what are you going to do about it?
4. When things go wrong with our families, whose fault is it? Do you have brokenness in your family? Pray for one another.
5. If you have been in Eve's place (2 sons: one killed and one gone), how would you have felt? How would you have responded?
6. How does Seth's birth introduce hope into the story?
7. Are there ways in which you need Jesus to introduce hope into your story? Pray for one another.