WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Series Title: By Faith: Abel Brought
Key Scripture: Hebrews 11:4, Genesis 4:1- 5.
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/by-faith-series-part-9-abel-brought
Date + Speaker: August 23, 2026 | Pastor Mark Scarr

The Big Picture
Genuine faith puts God first, ahead of everything else in our lives. This expresses our recognition that God is the source of everything we have, that He owns it all, and that He can be trusted to provide everything we need.

Starter:
When it comes to food on your plate, are you a 'save the best for the last' person or a 'eat the best first' person

Discussion:
Read the Text - Hebrews 11:4 and Genesis 4:1- 5.

1. Why was Abel's offering described as being better and more acceptable to God than Cain's?
2. How did Abel's sacrifice reflect faith in God?
3. Consider the examples in Hebrews 11, for example, Abel brought, Enoch walked, Abraham went. How is genuine faith expressed?
4. Read Matthew 6:21&24. What connection can you see between these Scriptures and the idea of 'first portion' giving?
5. According to James 1:17 and Psalm 24:1, does God have a rightful claim to the first of everything that we have? Give reasons for your answer.
6. How does 2 Corinthians 9:7 help us to understand how we should give?

Diving Deeper:

1. What does it mean to acknowledge that God is the owner of everything we have and that we are entrusted with managing it?
2. What is the difference between giving as a religious exercise and giving as an expression of faith, love, gratitude and trust in God?
3. Why can it be difficult to trust God with our finances and resources even when we believe that He will provide for us?
4. In what other areas of life besides finances could we be giving God leftovers?
5. Does giving God the first portion of our resources require more faith than giving after we have met our personal needs and desires? Please give reasons for your answer.
6. According to Pastor Mark, we should 'budget our lives around our giving rather than our giving around our lives', what would this look like in practical everyday decisions?
7. God promises to supply all our needs in Philippians 4:19. What is your response to this knowledge?
8. After studying Abel's example, what is one specific area of your life where you feel challenged to give God your first and best? What practical step can you take this week?

Additional Resources: More Bible references to help with this guide.
Deuteronomy 12:6, 18:4; 2 Chronicles 31:5-6, 8-10; Exodus 19:5, 23:19; Genesis 4:4; Leviticus 3:16; Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 6:21 & 24, 23:23; James 1:17; Psalm 24:1; Philippians 4:19; Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7.