



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 5: The First Murder
Suggested Week of Use: December 31, 2023
Core Passage: Genesis 4:1-15

News Story Summary

Earlier this month, professional basketball player Chance Comanche was arrested in connection with the murder of a Washington state woman in Las Vegas, Nevada. Comanche, 27, had been playing for the Stockton Kings, a G League affiliate of the NBA's Sacramento Kings. He and his girlfriend, 19-year-old Sakari Harnden, were initially suspected in the kidnapping of 23-year-old Marayna Rogers, who was reported missing on December 7. Witnesses stated that Harnden and Rogers were friends and had set a time to meet in Las Vegas a couple of days before the disappearance. Later, the charges against Harnden were amended to include murder after Rogers's remains were discovered in the desert near Henderson, Nevada. The FBI arrested Comanche for kidnapping in Sacramento, and Las Vegas police expect to charge him with murder as well once he is extradited to Nevada.

For more about this story, search “Chance Comanche Murder Charges”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: *What makes it so hard to understand when something terrible, such as a murder, happens between people who claim to be friends or even relatives?* Share information about the arrest of Chance Comanche and his girlfriend, Sakari Harnden, on murder charges. Emphasize that Harnden and the victim, Marayna Rogers, were friends. Ask: *How does murder dishonor God and His character?* Share that this session examines the first murder in human history—a crime committed by one brother against another.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, as you discuss the paragraph related to personal responsibility, ask the following questions: *When it comes to murder, whether with Cain and Abel or with the story we talked about earlier, what is the role of personal responsibility? Why is it important for people to take personal responsibility for their actions? What are the dangers of letting jealousy and anger go unchecked?* Note that we all are responsible for our sin. Enlist a volunteer to read the main point for this session: *Dishonoring God leads to contempt for His creation.* Emphasize that sin diminishes our reverence for God and our respect for His creation, including other people. Challenge adults to examine their lives to see if they have allowed sin to make them less responsive to God and more dismissive of the significance of others.