

LESSON 4

Cain & Abel

GENESIS 4:1–16



BIBLE TRUTH

OUR ACTIONS REVEAL THE TRUE MOTIVATION OF OUR HEARTS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Four sets of four of the same plant or animal—three, healthy/strong; one, rotten/weak.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 4)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 4

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

No, Sin. No!

God’s Warning to Cain

Cain’s Lie

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will hear the story of how Cain became jealous and killed his brother Abel.

Prior to class, draw four sets of four plants and animals. For each set, have three that look big, healthy, and good as well as one that looks rotten, weak, or small. Don't worry about your drawing ability. If you can't draw, just draw some apples or bananas or wheat stalks. You can color them correctly for the good fruit and put black spots on the bad ones or draw them misshapen. If you are more skilled, try a few sheep.

During class time, have the children pick which plants and animals they should give to God and which ones they should keep. They should decide to give to God first rather than taking three for themselves first, leaving God with the leftover one (even if the leftover one is good/healthy). If they choose the best for God, try to talk them out of it to see how easily they can be convinced to keep the best for themselves.

We always give God our best first. Then we take what is left over for ourselves. In this way, we honor God more than we honor ourselves.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 4, "Cain and Abel," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

What were Cain and Abel's jobs?

(Abel was a herdsman or shepherd who kept flocks, and Cain was a farmer.)

Why did Cain and Abel bring an offering to the Lord?

(They wanted to thank God for his blessings. All good things, in this case the increase of their work, come from the Lord.)

Upon whose offering did God look with favor? Why?

(Abel's; because he gave the first and best to God, but Cain did not give the first and best to God.)

What did Cain do to Abel? *(He killed him.)* Why did Cain kill Abel? *(He was angry that God liked Abel's gift better than his gift.)*

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

Cain and Abel brought an offering to the Lord. When do we bring offerings to the Lord?

(When we give our money to God; that's called "tithing" or giving to the Lord the first and best of what we earn.)

Can children bring an offering?

(Yes, ask your parents if you can bring an offering from your piggy bank or the next time someone gives you some money.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 4—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

How would you describe Cain's heart?

(He has an angry heart and is going to hurt his brother.)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Hebrews 12:22–24

Abel was the first man ever to be killed. Jesus was the most important man ever to be killed. They were killed for the same basic reason—because they were favored by God, and others not favored by God hated them for it. So in some ways the deaths of Abel and Jesus are very similar.

But Abel's blood could not bring forgiveness of sin. Only the shed blood of Jesus, both God and man, could do that. This is why "the sprinkled blood [of Jesus] speaks a better word than the blood of Abel." The sacrifice of Jesus was perfect.

What could Cain have done differently?

(He could have gone back and brought God the first and best he had in another offering. He could have asked his brother for help. He could have asked God to forgive him for his poor offering.)

What did God do to Cain after he killed his brother?

(He asked him questions and then sent him away. God put a mark on Cain as a sign that no one should kill him.)

No, Sin. No!

Split the class into two groups. Have one group pretend they are "sin crouching at the door" by crouching down and making mean faces. Have the other group shake their fingers at sin and say, "No, sin. No! I will not listen to you." At this point, the children playing the part of "sin" should fall to the ground as if dead. Try the exercise again; only this time, instead of fighting against sin, have the children shake hands with sin and then have them turn into sin themselves.

Ask the children the following questions:

Did Cain give in to God's warning, or did Cain give in to sin?

(Cain gave in to sin.)

How do we fight sin?

(We fight sin by obeying our parents who teach us God's Word.)

Did you ever get angry with someone you were playing with? Did you get so angry that you hit them?

(Put on an angry face when you say that, and show them how it is easy to hit someone just like Cain did.)

Explain to the children that Jesus died on the cross to help us win the battle against sin.

God's Warning to Cain

Read Genesis 4:1–7. Discuss the following questions with the children:

Ask the children if they know what a warning is.

(A warning tells us to be careful.)

Ask the class if they ever got a warning from someone.

(They may remember warnings from parents or No Smoking signs at gas stations, but if they don't, then explain with other examples of your own.)

Ask the class if they can tell you what God's warning to Cain was.

(Read Genesis 4:7: "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.")

What warnings does God give us?

(If we don't trust in Jesus, we will not go to heaven. If we obey our parents, it will go well with us and we will have a long life. Or if we don't obey our parents it will not go well with us ... etc. We will sow what we reap.)

Cain's Lie

Have a few volunteers act out the story of Abel's and Cain's offerings. Give them the lines and prompt them to speak. The kids will have fun seeing the story acted out. *(Make sure the killing is not full-contact acting!)* After Cain lies, end the skit and ask the kids what Cain did wrong. *(He acted out in anger.)*

Then ask them why Cain lied. (*He didn't want to get into trouble.*)

Talk about the importance of telling the truth. Point out that God put a mark on Cain out of mercy so that no one would kill him. Highlight the mercy of God even in light of Cain's sin. Ask the children if they ever told a lie so they would not get into trouble. What happened? Discuss what they should do if they are tempted to lie.

PRAY 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 4 - CAIN AND ABEL

