

L1.9 “Cain the Farmer and Abel the Shepherd”

Read Together: In the process of time, Adam and Eve started their family. Their firstborn son was named Cain, and their second son was named Abel. The two brothers had different occupations—Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. They also had very different personalities. God has designed mankind so that people are individuals with different personalities, talents and abilities. God doesn’t want everyone to be the same; He loves variety! Both farmers and shepherds are necessary and noble occupations. God wanted Cain and Abel to use their talents to serve Him and their family, and He wants us to do the same today. In this lesson, we will discuss the first two brothers, Cain and Abel.



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Read Together: Genesis 4:1–2

Discuss:

- Ask your child the names of Adam’s and Eve’s first and second sons.
- Talk about the agrarian lifestyle with beautiful pastures, animals grazing, and fields of wheat. Paint a word picture that your child can visualize.
- Ask your child what they think it would be like to be a farmer or a shepherd.
- Discuss the fact that Cain and Abel were brothers who grew up together. Ask your child what it is (would be) like to have a brother.
- Remind your child that God has given people different talents and abilities and that everyone is needed. God loves everyone.

Review memorization:

Luke 10:27 *“So he answered and said, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”*

L1.10 “Cain and Abel Offer Sacrifices to God”

Read Together: Cain and Abel were sons of Adam and Eve. As the brothers grew, God talked to them and taught them, just as He did to their parents. Cain and Abel were learning that they were supposed to obey God and love God. In this lesson, we will see how we must put God first in all we do. We must have a good attitude towards God and show it by doing what He tells us to do.



Read Together: Genesis 4:3–5, Hebrews 11:4.

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Discuss:

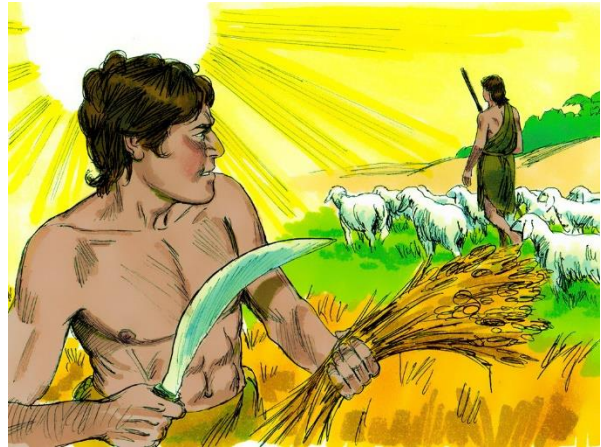
- Help your child understand that Cain and Abel were coming before the Creator to offer gifts to Him and that only the very best is suitable to offer God.
- Explain how Abel’s righteous attitude was reflected in his offering to God; Abel gave the best he had.
- Explain that God loved Cain, but his offering was not pleasing to God.
- Ask your child what Cain’s attitude was toward God and his brother when he was corrected.
- Ask your child what might be an action that would come from a bad attitude.

Review memorization:

Genesis 4:4–5 *“The LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.”*

L1.11 “Cain’s Anger Turns to Murder”

Read Together: Cain became very angry when his offering was not accepted and Abel’s offering was. He would not stop being angry, and he blamed Abel for Cain’s getting into trouble. Cain let his anger grow and grow, and as a result, he even began to hate his brother. That led to him murdering Abel. God says we must love each other as much as we love ourselves (Luke 10:27). And God says we should not even hate an enemy, but love them (Matthew 5:44). In this lesson, we will see how anger can grow and turn into hatred if we let it. And hatred can lead to murder. But God wants us to respect others and have self-control. That leads to peace!



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Read Together: Genesis 4:4-8; 1 John 3:11–12, 15; Proverbs 16:32

Discuss:

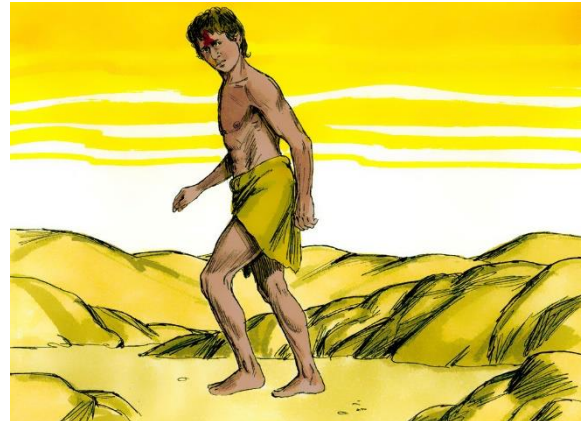
- Ask your child what Cain’s attitude was like.
- Explain the advice God gave to Cain to correct the situation. (God told Cain to do the right thing and learn to control himself (Genesis 4:7).
- Ask how Adam and Eve must have felt when they learned Abel was dead. Discuss how sin affects everyone.
- Talk to your child about respect, treating others the way you want to be treated, having self-control, and learning to resolve conflicts. Show how things could have been different if Cain had shown respect and exercised self-control. He could have tried to resolve the conflict with his brother.
- Explain that God desires all people to live in peace, and that takes respecting other people and having self-control.

Review memorization.

Luke 10:27 “So he answered and said, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”

L1.12 “God Punishes Cain”

Read Together: When God accepted Abel’s offering but did not accept Cain’s, Cain got very angry. He got so mad that he killed his brother! He became the first murderer in the human family. God knew that Abel was dead and came to talk to Cain about murdering his brother. God asked Cain where his brother was. Instead of admitting what he had done, Cain tried to hide what he had done from God and was not sorry for his actions. He replied to God, saying, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” This lesson will show the idea of cause and effect. It will show that certain things happen because of our actions, when we don’t obey God. It will also show that everyone must love his neighbor.



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Read Together: Genesis 4:9–16; Luke 10:27

Discuss:

- Explain to your child that God, who knows everything, knew Cain had killed Abel. Cain couldn’t hide it from God, and neither can we hide our mistakes or sins from God.
- Ask your child what Cain’s attitude was when God asked about Abel.
- Discuss with your child Cain’s punishment. He was sent away from God and the community. Why would God send Cain away from the others?
- Help your child understand that thinking bad things can lead to bad actions.
- Ask your child how following the law to “love your neighbor” could have changed Cain’s life.

Review memorization:

Luke 10:27 *“So he answered and said, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”*

More to Do!

These activities are optional, but some children may find them enjoyable.

- Show love for your neighbors by creating cards for the widows, widowers, or other older members in the congregation.
- Help your child to plan a good deed to do for someone in the family.
- Your child may like to sing along with this cute song [Thank You God](#).