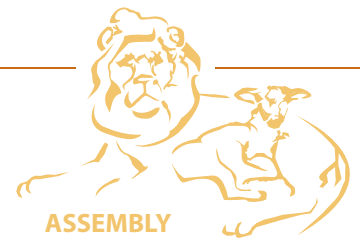


CAIN AND ABEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 4:-16



*Please do not feel the need to cover the entire portion of scripture in your lesson.
The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can
present this material.*

LESSON IDEAS

EXPLAINING FIRST FRUITS

Giving God the first and best. Prior to class, draw four sets of plants and animals. For each pair, 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 ones they should give to God and which ones they should keep. They should decide to give to God first rather than take three for themselves, leaving God with the leftover (even if they leave the good/healthy one for God). 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.

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.
 - If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it. (Genesis 4:7)
- 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 AND ABEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 4:1-16

CAIN'S LIE

Have a few volunteers act out the story of Abel and Cain's offering. Give them the lines and prompt them to speak. The kids will have a fun time 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.

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. Draw the discussion out -- 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.

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.

Though Abel's innocent blood was shed by a sinful man, it did not reverse the curse or reconcile man to God. A more perfect sacrifice was needed. Jesus is that sacrifice. Hebrews 12:24 says we have come "to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."

First fruits – Abel offered the fattest and firstborn in his offering to the Lord. When we offer our first to God we are communicating to God that we recognize he is more important than any other of our needs. God repeatedly asked Israel for the firstfruits of their labor. First fruits touches the heart of God. One of the reasons is that in offering the first and best to God, we are following his example and walking in His image.

Colossians 1:15 tells us that Christ is the firstborn over all creation. Colossians 1:18 tells us he is the firstborn from among the dead. Christ is the firstfruit of the resurrection. So, when we give to God the first and the best we are celebrating the truth that He offered up His first and His best.

Abel's sacrifice was pleasing to God, not because of Abel's work, but because it reminded God of the firstborn Son he would one day offer to us.