

# CAIN AND ABEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 4:1-16



## The STORY

Read "Cain and Abel" and "The First Murder" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 15-17).

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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 show God thanks for His blessings. All good things, in this case the increase of their work, come from the Lord.)
- Upon whose offering did God look upon with favor? (Abel's) Why? (Abel 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.)

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### CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a very angry Cain who is swinging a club towards Abel. Engage the children by asking:**

- How would you describe Cain's heart? (He has an angry heart and is going to hurt his brother.)
- 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 then sent him away. God put a mark on Cain as a sign that no one should kill him.)

### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children 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, you can ask your parents if you can bring an offering from your piggy bank or the next time someone gives you some money.)



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### 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.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*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.*

