

Cain & Abel

Introductory Activity

Review the last lesson about Adam and Eve and sin.

- What were the consequences of sin for Adam and Eve at this point in the story?
- Look up Isaiah 59:2, Romans 6:23a, Romans 3:23. What do these verses tell us about sin?

Today we continue our story and really start to see the consequences of sin.

Story

Read together Genesis 4:1-16. Discuss:

- Who are the sons of Adam and Eve? What do they do?
- When offering to God, what did Cain and Abel give?
- When God was not pleased with Cain's offering, how did Cain feel? What did he do afterward? Have you ever felt the same when it seems your brother or sister is favored over you? Did Cain do what is right? In the same way, what should we do when we feel angry, sad or jealous?
- Do you think God really didn't know where Abel was? (No. God knows everything. He knew exactly what Cain had done.)
- So why do you think God asked Cain where Abel was if He already what had happened? (God was giving Cain the chance to confess and say he was sorry for what he had done. God knows everything we do, but He wants us to confess it to Him and say we're sorry.)
- Can we hide anything from God? So, if we lie does God know it?
- What lessons can we learn from the story of Cain and Abel? (Sample answers: obey God, love your brother, we cannot hide from God, do not lie, do not kill, do not be jealous, angry and the like.)

Activity

You will need small stickers for this activity, preferable gold star stickers.

Ask if anyone present is guilty of the sin of murder (killing someone). Read Matthew 5:21-22 and then explain that Jesus said we are guilty of the sin of murder when we get angry at a person. Now ask again for a show of hands from everyone who thinks they are guilty of murder (anger).

Explain that God told Cain he would become a wanderer and whenever he tried to plant crops they would no longer grow for him. That made Cain afraid that he would be killed.

Pass a sticker around to each person and say, “Even though Cain was sinful and deserved to die for what he did, God put a mark on Cain’s forehead to show that he was under God’s protection and that anyone who killed Cain would be punished seven times more for what they did. Put the sticker on your foreheads as a reminder that God gave grace to Cain even when he did not deserve it.

Are we, who are sinners, better than Cain? (Although it is worse to actually kill someone than to get angry, it only takes one sin - and the sin of anger is enough - for us to be guilty before God and deserve to be punished. But, instead of punishing us, God sent His son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins so that if we believe in Him, we can be forgiven.)

Now remove the sticker from your foreheads and place it on your hearts. For the rest of the day that sticker should remind you that Jesus died on the cross to save you. When God saves us, He changes our sinful heart of stone into a soft heart of flesh. God also gives us a “mark” – His Holy Spirit to live inside us. That is a better mark than Cain received.

MEMORY VERSE:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins. *1 John 1:9*