

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

Kindergarten

Sunday Morning

Study 3

Cain and Abel

Cain and Abel

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To demonstrate to the students the effect of Adam and Eve's sin in the world.

Key Verses

Genesis 4—Main Teaching Passage
Hebrews 11:4

Memory Verse - Genesis 1:1 (September Memory Verse)

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Hook

Ask the students: "What is sin? What happens when we sin? Why do we sin?"

Record their answers on the board.

Discuss the concept of sin and disobedience with the students, then turn to Genesis 4.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In Genesis 3, we read about the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, giving in to temptation and disobeying God by eating the fruit. Because of their failure to obey God's Word and listen to His voice, they were kicked out of the garden and separated from God. Unfortunately for all of us, Genesis 4 shows us that Adam and Eve's sin was not confined to them, but rather the curse spread through them to all people.

In Genesis 4, we see the first evidence of the effect of sin upon mankind. Adam and Eve's children, Cain and Abel, both brought sacrifices to God. Cain brought the best of his fruits and vegetables, but his sacrifice was rejected. Abel brought a lamb, and his sacrifice was acceptable to the LORD. In jealousy and anger, Cain struck out against his brother and killed him. When questioned about his brother's death by God, Cain showed no remorse or sorrow, forcing God to discipline him further. Adam and Eve's sin was passed on to Cain and Abel, and likewise has been passed on to us. We all have sinful natures due to the initial disobedience of Adam.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

One of the worst things about our sin is that it doesn't just affect us. It sometimes affects the people around us too. Adam and Eve must have felt awful. They had lived in perfect communion with God. They had walked with Him in the Garden of Eden and spoken with Him face-to-face. They knew what it was like to live completely free from sin. They also had to compare their new, sinful lives to what it used to be like before. Every day, they would have felt the weight of their sin and remembered what life was like before they disobeyed God and ate the fruit of the tree. But those awful feelings would not have come close to how so incredibly sad they must have felt the day that their oldest son, Cain, murdered their second son, Abel.

What must it have felt like for them to look and realize that the only reason that they lost not one but two sons was because of their own sin? Jealousy only existed in Cain because Adam and Eve had allowed sin to enter the world. The curse that God proclaimed upon Adam and Eve when they disobeyed Him spread to all men, even you and me. We all need to realize that sin is the most destructive force in the universe, but more importantly, we need to realize that our sin has consequences that we

LOOK (Continued)

can't control. If Adam and Eve knew that eating the fruit of the tree would mean that their child would be killed, they never would have done it. You and I can look back at our own sin like that. If we had only known how bad we would feel after we got caught stealing or lying, we never would have done it. Sin is pleasurable for a season, but in the long run it always brings sorrow and heartache.

Despite having a fallen and sinful nature, Abel is a wonderful example to us. Abel wanted to honor God, and he came before God in the right way. He brought the acceptable sacrifice to Him and showed God his love toward Him. Cain came the wrong way. He did not want to approach God on God's terms, but on his own. He was proud and arrogant. Even though you and I are left to deal with the consequences of Adam's sin, we can, like Abel, still come before God in the right way and worship Him. God doesn't want us to bring animal sacrifices, because God already made a sacrifice for us. God sacrificed His own Son Jesus, so that our relationship could be restored with Him. He gave His only Son so that we could live with Him for eternity without sin, just like Adam and Eve did in the Garden.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the students what sin is. What are the consequences of sin?

Pray: Thank the Lord for the forgiveness that is found in Christ Jesus. Praise Him for His desire to see us live with Him in Heaven for eternity. Ask Him for the strength to live like Abel, approaching God in the right and acceptable way.

Parent Question: How does your sin affect the people around you?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Genesis 4 by David Guzik

Genesis 4 - Cain and Abel

A. Cain's murder of Abel.

1. (1) The birth of Cain.

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

a. **Now Adam knew Eve his wife:** This is the first specific mention of sex in the Bible. The term "**knew**" or "to know" is a polite way of saying they had sexual relations and the term is used often in the Bible in this sense (Genesis 4:17, 4:25, 38:26, Judges 11:39, 1 Samuel 1:19).

i. There is power in this way of referring to sex. It shows the high, interpersonal terms in which the Bible sees the sexual relationship. Most terms and phrases people use for sex today are either coarse or violent, but the Bible sees sex as a means of *knowing* one another in a committed relationship. **Knew** indicates an act that contributes to the bond of unity and the building up of a one-flesh relationship.

ii. We have no reason to believe Adam and Eve did not have sex before this. Adam and Eve were certainly capable of sexual relations before the fall, because there is nothing inherently impure or unclean in sex itself, only in its misuse.

b. **And bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD":** The name **Cain** basically meant, *I've got him* or *Here he is*. It is likely Eve thought that Cain was the seed that God promised, the deliverer who would come from Eve (Genesis 3:15). There is a sense in which Eve said, "I have *the* man from the LORD."

i. Under normal circumstances, parents want good things for their children. They wonder if their children are destined for greatness. Adam, and especially Eve, had these expectations for Cain, but it went farther than normal parental hopes and expectations. Adam and Eve expected Cain to be the Messiah God promised.

ii. Eve thought she held in her arms the Messiah, the Savior of the whole world, but she really held in her arms a murderer.

c. **A man from the LORD:** Eve had faith to believe that the little baby she held would become a man. No baby had ever been born before. It is possible Adam and Eve wondered if their descendants would come forth fully mature, as they did.

2. (2-5) The birth of Abel and the offerings of Cain and Abel.

Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And 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.

a. **Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground:**

Agriculture and the domestication of animals were practiced among the earliest humans. Adam and his descendants did not spend tens of thousands of years living as hunter-gatherer cave dwellers.

b. **Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD:** We can surmise that Cain brought his offering to the tree of life because cherubim guarded the way to the tree of life (Genesis 3:24), and cherubim are always associated with the dwelling place or meeting place with God (Exodus 25:10-22). Cain and everyone else on the earth at that time probably met with God at the tree of life, where the cherubim were.

c. **The LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering:** Abel brought an offering of blood (**the firstborn of his flock**) and Cain brought an offering of vegetation (**the fruit of the ground**). Many assume that *this* was the difference between their offerings, but grain offerings were acceptable before God (as seen in Leviticus 2), though not as an atonement for sin.

i. "The word for offering, *minchah*, is used in its broadest sense, covering any type of gift man may bring... Neither of the two sacrifices is made specifically for sin. Nothing in the account points in this direction." (Leupold)

ii. The writer to the Hebrews clearly explained why the offering of Abel was accepted and the offering of Cain was rejected: *By faith Abel offered up a more excellent sacrifice than Cain* (Hebrews 11:4). Cain's offering was the effort of dead religion, while Abel's offering was made in faith, in a desire to worship God in spirit and in truth.

d. **Abel also brought the firstborn of his flock and of their fat:** This shows Abel's offering was extra special. The **fat** of the animal was prized as its luxury, and was to be given to God when the animal was sacrificed (Leviticus 3:16-17; 7:23-25). The burning of fat in sacrifice before God is called *a sweet aroma to the LORD* (Leviticus 17:6).

i. The offering of Cain was no doubt more aesthetically pleasing; Abel's would have been a bloody mess. But God was more concerned with faith in the heart than with artistic beauty.

ii. Here, it was one lamb for a man. Later, at the Passover, it will be one lamb for a family. Then, at the Day of Atonement, it was one lamb for the nation. Finally, with Jesus, there was one Lamb who took away the sin of the whole world (John 1:29).

e. **Respected...did not respect:** We don't precisely know how Can and Abel knew their sacrifices were accepted or not accepted. Seemingly, there was some outward evidence making it obvious.

i. There are Biblical examples of having an acceptable sacrifice consumed by fire from God (Judges 6:21; 1 Kings 18:38; 1 Chronicles 21:26; 2 Chronicles 7:1). Perhaps an acceptable sacrifice, brought to the cherubim at the tree of life, was consumed by fire from heaven or from the flaming swords of the cherubim (Genesis 3:24).

f. **Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell:** Cain's anger was undoubtedly rooted in pride. He couldn't bear that his brother was accepted before God and he was not. It is even possible that this was public knowledge, if God consuming the sacrifice with fire indicated acceptance.

i. The epidemic of sin quickly became worse. Cain now committed the relatively sophisticated sins of spiritual pride and hypocrisy.

3. (6-7) God's warning to Cain.

So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you

not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

a. **Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?** God dealt with Cain in terms of loving confrontation instead of automatic affirmation. God made it clear that Cain would be accepted *if* he did well.

i. Of course, God knew the answers to the questions He asked, but He wanted Cain to know and to resist the pull toward violence and anger within.

b. **If you do not do well, sin lies at the door:** God warned Cain about the destructive power of sin. Cain could resist sin and find blessing, or he could give in to sin and be devoured.

c. **And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it:** We prevent sin from ruling over us by allowing God to master us first. Without God as our master, we will be slaves to sin.

4. (8) Cain murders Abel.

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

a. **Now Cain talked with Abel his brother:** The sense is that Cain planned to catch Abel by surprise, lulling him with pleasant conversation. This shows Cain committed *premeditated* murder, and therefore clearly ignored God’s way of escape.

b. **Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him:** No human had ever died or been killed before, but Cain saw how animals were be killed for sacrifice. He extinguished Abel’s life in the same way.

i. The downward course of sin among the young human race progressed quickly. Now the hoped-for redeemer was found to be a murderer, and the second son was the victim of murder. Sin wasn’t stopped at the root or man’s moral condition quickly improved. Sin could not be contained.

B. God confronts Cain.

1. (9) God questions Cain.

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

a. **Where is Abel your brother:** God knew the answer to this question. He asked Cain because He wanted to give him the opportunity to confess his sin and start to do right after having done wrong.

i. How futile it was for Cain to lie to God! It was madness for him to think God didn’t know where Abel was, or that he could actually hide his sin from God.

b. **Am I my brother’s keeper?** This reply of Cain is famous. The fact of the matter is that he *was* supposed to be his **brother’s keeper**, but was instead his brother’s murderer, and he murdered him for the lowest of reasons. Able had not injured Cain in any way. Cain’s murderous rage was inspired purely by a spiritual jealousy.

i. Jude 11 warns of the *way of Cain*, which is unbelief, empty religion leading to jealousy, persecution of those truly godly, and murderous anger.

ii. There is no greater curse on the earth than empty, vain religion, those who *have a form of godliness, but deny the power of God* (2 Timothy 3:5). Many are afraid of secular humanism or atheism, but dead religion sends more people to hell than anything else.