

Lesson 11

CAIN AND ABEL GENESIS 4

Bible Truth: We should give our best for God, not to get the praise of man, but because we love God and want to please Him.

Materials Needed: *Use Your Bible* - “Use Your Bible” strip (one per student); *Family Tree* - “My Family Tree” sheet (one per student), Adam and Eve’s Family Tree (made from the patterns in Appendix A); *What Lesson For Us?* - letters to spell “sacrifice” and “GOOD” backed with felt or magnets, felt or magnetic board; *Time Line* - words “Cain and Abel” (see Appendix A), picture of Cain and Abel

Lesson Format:

Use Your Bible (pre-class)
Songs
The Books of History
Add a Word
Read and Discuss
Family Tree
Tic-Tac-Toe Review
What Lesson for Us?
Time Line

Dialogue:

Pre-class Activity: Use Your Bible

As the students come in, let them choose a “Use Your Bible” strip to complete. To do this, hold the strips, face side down, in your hand like a spread deck of cards and let them draw a strip out of your hands. When it is time for class to begin, go over them together.

Answer Key:

1. breath, living
2. garden, tree, die
3. work, care
4. alone, woman, help, Eve
5. fruit, husband
6. tree, woman, snake
7. dust, pain, ground
8. clothes, garden

Option: If you have non-readers, talk to them about family trees. Ask them the names of their parents and grandparents (if they know them). Draw trees all over the board and as the students tell you the names of their parents, write them in the trees along with the students’ names. Tell

them that in our story today, Adam and Eve are going to start the first family tree. Go over the material in the “Use Your Bible” strips by asking questions to review the last lesson.

Songs

The Books of History

Review the books of law with the students. Then have them say the books of history, repeating after you: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Then say them together. Remind them that there are twelve books of history. They are called history because they tell the history of the Jewish people.

If you have a poster with these books on them, refer to that as you say the books.

Add a Word

Say the whole memory verse, then have the students say it with you, referring to the words on the clothesline.

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made: your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Psalms 139:14

Then say the first two words of the verse and have the students repeat after you. Then say the first four words of the verse and have the students repeat after you. Then say the first six words of the verse and have the students repeat after you. Continue in this manner until you have said the whole verse:

“I praise . . .”

“I praise you because . . .”

“I praise you because I am. . .”

Read and Discuss

“We are going to begin with the Bible lesson where we ended last time. After Adam and Eve had been sent from the beautiful garden of Eden, they had to work hard for the rest of their lives. Adam worked to get food for himself and his wife.

“One day a little baby boy was born. He was the first baby. They named him Cain. Then another baby boy was born. They named him Abel.

“The boys grew up and Cain became a farmer. Abel looked after sheep. He was a shepherd.”

Read Genesis 4:3-5.

“What did Cain bring as a gift to God?” (some food that he had grown)

“What did Abel bring?” (some animals from his flock)

“What does the Bible say about the animals that Abel brought?” (They were the best ones of his best sheep.)

“How did God feel about Cain’s gift?” (He did not accept the offering.)

“How did God feel about Abel’s gift?” (He accepted it.)

“There has been a lot of talk about why God accepted Abel’s offering and didn’t accept Cain’s. The Bible doesn’t tell us exactly. It does tell us that Able brought his best and doesn’t mention that Cain brought his best. This certainly had something to do with it. God wants and expects us to give Him our best. He is the King of the universe and our creator and deserves no less.

“Another reason God didn’t accept Cain’s sacrifice may have to do with what God told Cain. He told him that if he did good things he would be right with God, but if he did wrong, then sin was controlling him. Cain may not have followed the instructions God had given for bringing offerings to God and that was wrong.

“How did it make Cain feel when God didn’t accept his offering?” (He was angry.)

“Let’s read on to see what God said about Cain’s being angry.”

Read Genesis 4:6-7.

“What did God say to Cain?” (If you do good, then I will accept you. If you do wrong, then I won’t accept you.)

“What did God say about sin?” (Your sin will want to control you, but you must control it.)

“Let’s see if sin controlled Cain or Cain controlled sin.”

Read Genesis 4:9.

“What did Cain do to Abel?” (He killed him.)

“Did sin control Cain or did Cain control sin?” (Sin controlled Cain.)

“What did God ask Cain?” (“Where is Abel?”)

“What did Cain reply?” (“I don’t know. Is it my job to watch and care for my brother?”)

“The King James version says, ‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’. This has become a famous phrase. People say it when other people ask them about someone and they don’t know anything. Now when you hear someone say this, you’ll know it’s from the Bible!”

“One sin leads to another. First Cain’s worship was wrong, then he got angry and was jealous. Then he killed his brother and next he told a lie.

Read Genesis 4:10-15.

“What was Cain’s punishment?” (He had to leave and wander from place to place. The ground wouldn’t grow anything for him.)

“What was Cain upset about?” (He wouldn’t get to be with God anymore, he wouldn’t have a home, and someone would kill him.)

“What did God do so that no one would kill Cain?” (put a special mark on him)

“The Bible tells us that Cain left and went to live in the land of Nod. He married and had children and grandchildren, and he built a city.

“In the meantime, Adam and Eve also had another son. They named him Seth.”

Read Genesis 4:26; 5:4-5.

Family Tree

If you didn’t do the family tree activity in the pre-class time, do it now. (If you did, skip the paragraph and start with the next one.) Talk to them about family trees. Ask them the names of their parents and grandparents (if they know them). Give each student a “Family Tree” sheet.

Have them write the names of their parents in the trees along with their names. If they know their grand parents' names they may add these also. Let them add lines for aunts, uncles, and siblings if they wish. Show them how they are supposed to look by putting your family tree up on the board. If you are running short on time, send the trees home with the students and get them to work on them with their parents.

“For each of the major families that we study this year we will put up a family tree. Adam and Eve’s will be our first one.”

Put up Adam and Eve’s family tree.

“What three children do we know the names of and can put on the tree?” (Cain, Abel, and Seth) Add these names to the tree.

Tic-Tac-Toe Review

Draw a large “Tic-Tac-Toe” grid on the board. Divide the class into two teams. Assign one team to be “x” and the other to be “o.” Go back and forth asking the teams the questions below. If they answer correctly, they may put up an “x” or an “o” on the board.

How many sons did Adam and Eve have that are named in the Bible?” (3)

Name Adam and Eve’s sons. (Cain, Abel, Seth)

Cain farmed. What work did Abel do? (He was a shepherd, a keeper of sheep.)

Cain offered fruit and grain to God. What did Abel offer to God? (the best of his flock)

Whose offering was pleasing to God? (Abel’s)

Why was Cain’s offering not pleasing to God? (It wasn’t his best. It wasn’t according to God’s plan.)

What lie did Cain tell to God? (God asked him where Abel was and Cain said he didn’t know.)

Why did Cain kill Abel? (He was jealous because God accepted Abel’s offering and didn’t accept his.)

How did God punish Cain? (Cain had to leave home and wander around. His plants wouldn’t grow.)

Who committed the first murder? (Cain)

What Lesson for Us?

You can do this exercise either by writing the words on the board or putting up the letters on a felt or magnetic board.

Put up the word “sacrifice.”

“A sacrifice is an offering given to God. God asked for many different kinds of sacrifices in the Bible. He gave specific instructions about how they were to be given.

“Offering a sacrifice to God is good . . .” Put up the word “GOOD.” **“ . . . if it is made according to God’s plan.**

“But Cain made his offering in his own way, not God’s way. Was Cain’s sacrifice

worth anything in God's sight? Let's see! When we take 'G - O - D' ...' Remove the letters "G," "O," and "D." "... out of 'G - O - O - D' what do we have left? **Zero - absolutely nothing!**"

Take down "sacrifice" and "O."

"God wants to work in us to do good."

Put "G - O - O - D" on the board.

"If we do good deeds because we want someone to congratulate us or give us a lot of credit or praise or simply to get a reward, what are our good deeds worth?"

Take away the letters "G - O - D."

"Zero - absolutely nothing. We should do good deeds because we love God and we want to be pleasing to Him."

Put the "G - O - D" back up to spell "GOOD."

End with a prayer, thanking God for His goodness and asking for help to do good because we love Him and not for the praise of others.

Time Line

Add a picture of Cain and Abel to the time line.

Use Your Bible

Copy and cut apart.

- ① Use your Bible. Find and read Genesis 2:7; Then fill in the blanks.
“The Lord breathed the _____ of life into the man’s nose,
and the man became a _____ thing.

- ② Use your Bible. Find and read Genesis 2:16,17; then fill in the
blanks.
“The Lord God said, ‘You may eat from any tree in the
_____. But you must not eat from the _____ that
gives knowledge about good and evil. If you eat fruit from that tree
you will _____!’”

- ③ Use your Bible. Find and read Genesis 2:15; then fill in the blanks.
“The Lord God put the man in the garden of Eden to _____ the
soil and take _____ of the garden.”

- ④ Use your Bible. Find and read Genesis 2:18; then fill in the blanks.
“Then the Lord God said, ‘I see that it is not good for the man to be
_____. I will make a _____ to _____ him.’”
Read Genesis 3:20.
Adam named his wife _____.

- ⑤ Use your Bible. Find and read Genesis 3:6; then fill in the blanks.
“So the woman took _____ from the tree and ate it. Her
_____ was there with her, so she gave some of the
fruit to him and he ate it.”

⑥ Use your Bible. Find and read Genesis 3:11-13; then fill in the blanks.
God said to the man, "Did you eat from that _____?" Adam said, "The _____ You made for me gave me the fruit so I ate it." The woman said, "The _____ tricked me. He fooled me and I ate the fruit."

⑦ Use your Bible. Find and read Genesis 3:14-17; then fill in the blanks.
God punished those who sinned. He punished the snake by making it crawl on its belly and eat _____. God punished the woman by making her have _____ in childbirth. God punished the man by cursing the _____ and making him work hard for his food.

⑧ Use your Bible. Find and read Genesis 3:21,23; then fill in the blanks.
God used animal skins and made _____ for Adam and Eve. He sent them out of the _____ of Eden.