



CAIN AND ABEL

Young Preschool • #OT4 • July 2, 2023

Concept

God made it possible for everyone to be His friend by *faith*.

Goal

Children will learn from Abel's example of faith in God.

Passage

Genesis 4:2-15

Key Verse: "It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by *his example of faith*." (Hebrews 11:4)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sorting boat</i> • <i>2 puzzles</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adam and Eve laminated figures from OT3</i> <p>Lesson: [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Backpack*</i> • <i>Stuffed lamb</i> • <i>Child's garden tool</i> • <i>Basket or bowl of fruit and vegetables (real or plastic)</i> • <i>Cain laminated stick puppet</i> • <i>Abel laminated stick puppet</i> <p>[1] * NOTE: The asterisk designates that these items are the responsibility of your teaching team.</p>	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cain and Abel printed sheet, 1/child • "Doesn't love God" stickers, 1/child • "Does love God" stickers, 1/child • Craft sticks, 2/child • Crayons • Markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"Cain's Religion and Abel's Relationship. The two brothers, Cain and Abel, each offered sacrifices to God. Cain brought the 'fruit of the ground' (Genesis 4:3) as his offering and God did not accept it. Abel, on the other hand, brought by faith the sacrifice of an unblemished animal which God accepted (see Hebrews 11:4). Why was one rejected and the other accepted?"

"God was not playing favorites with Cain and Abel. Both were Adam's sons and were as fallen and alienated from God as was Adam. Both brothers were equally religious in the sense that they each brought offerings to God. The difference, however, was in their heart attitudes.

"Abel's sacrifice. Abel offered his sacrifice according to God's requirements. He responded to God by faith and, because of his obedience, God accepted Abel's offering. His sacrifice was important because it revealed something of God's Redemptive Plan, even though Abel knew little of its future significance.

"Abel's sacrifice was a 'copy of heavenly things to come' (see Hebrews 9:23)...Abel offered up an unblemished animal which God had designated as a picture of what He was going to do about man's problem of sin (see Leviticus 17:11). This principle of the death of an innocent and blameless life substituting for the guilty one is used throughout the Old Testament. The only way that a sinful man can live with God forever is for a sinless life to die in his place. Here we have a preview of God's Redemptive Plan in embryonic form. An expanding revelation of the details will unfold in the years to come.

"Cain's Sacrifice. Cain's sacrifice was brought as a religious exercise rather than an act of faith. There are two ways people attempt to approach God. One is by faith, as Abel did, bowing to God and responding to His Word. The other way is by saying, in effect, 'God, bless my plan, bless what I am doing in Your name,' without a sense of sin and recognizing no need of God's forgiveness. God alone can see a person's heart and judge whether the person is responding in faith or functioning self-sufficiently. The contrast between a relationship by faith and a religious self-effort continues through all the history of man."¹

¹ Martha McCallum, Jane Hamblin, God's Incredible Plan, Media Concepts, Xenos Christian Fellowship, pp. 29, 31.

Set Up

The week before class: The teacher who is teaching the LESSON should bring a backpack to stuff with the provided lamb, a garden tool and real or plastic fruits & vegetables to use as props.

The day of class: Pray with your team that the Holy Spirit will use you in class. Pray that He will show His love and grace to the children through you.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **One Way (Goal: To learn the concept of “one way”)**
 - **Instructions:** Put provided sorting boat and puzzles and a book or two from the classroom on a table. As children arrive, ask them to show you the right way to read the book, put the puzzles and sorting boat together. Ask what happens if the puzzles and sorting boat are not put together correctly or the book is upside down or read backwards. Have them show you wrong ways to read a book, put the puzzle together. Talk with them about why there is a right way and wrong way to do things. The consequences of doing some things the wrong way can be very bad; e.g., traffic laws – when you get to a traffic light or stop sign, what would happen if people go instead of stop.

Introduction Lg. Group

Remember Adam and Eve? (Show laminated figures.) Adam and Eve were the first people God created. Adam and Eve had two boys. Their names were Cain and Abel (bring out stick puppets). Adam and Eve loved their two boys very much. They probably told Cain and Abel about the very bad choice they made to disobey God. They also probably taught Cain and Abel all about God's love and His promise to some day take away sin.

Lesson Lg. Group

When Cain and Abel grew up, Abel was a shepherd who took care of sheep (pull out stuffed lamb and pretend to feed it) and Cain was a farmer who grew lots of beautiful fruits and vegetables (bring out fruit and vegetables and put in basket).

One day Cain and Abel both took gifts to God. Abel loved God so much that he took his very best lamb (set lamb in front of class) to give God. It was because of Abel's faith- or trust- in God that he brought God the best sheep that he had as a gift to God. This is why it says in Hebrews 11:4- "It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did." This kind of trust is pleasing to God!

Cain did not have this same kind of faith- or trust- God. Cain took his fruits and vegetables (set basket in front of class) to God because he knew he was supposed to. He did not have the same kind of attitude as Abel. And God looks at what's in our hearts! So God didn't accept Cain's vegetables, which made Cain very angry towards God.

Lesson Continued

God talked to Cain, asking him why he was so angry. God warned Cain about sin (explain “sin”). But Cain did not listen to God and God’s warning to him. So he chose to disobey God. Cain was so angry that he killed his brother Abel. So for that very bad choice, Cain had to go far away from God forever. This was the consequence for Cain’s sin against God.

What happens in this story of Cain and Abel is sad, isn’t it? But a lesson that we can take away from their story is that God wants us to learn from Abel’s example of faith- or trust- in Him! Abel offered up his very best to God because of his faith in him! We can learn from his love for God!

Let’s pray now and thank God that He loves us and wants to be our friend, even though we have all made bad choices. God made it possible for everyone to be His friend by faith (or trust) in Him through Jesus. We can thank him for that! Is there anything else you would like to pray for?

Let’s color a picture about Cain and Abel.

Craft – Cain & Abel Puppets

Instructions: Give each child a Cain puppet and an Abel puppet, one black heart sticker, one white heart sticker and crayons. Color the puppets, put the hearts on the appropriate puppet and tape a craft stick on the back of each. As you help children, remind them that Cain didn’t really love God and chose to disobey God. Abel loved God because he had faith-or trust- in God. Talk about God’s goodness, e.g., He makes the sun come up in the morning to give us light and keep us warm, the moon at night, pretty flowers, parents to take care of us and teach us about Him, etc.

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group