

CAIN KILLS ABEL

Scripture:
Genesis 4:1-12

Materials Needed:
Pictures
Key Words
Thread

Memory Verse: *Genesis 4:7* “If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—Because God accepted Abel’s offering, but rejected his, Cain became angry, and even when God admonished hi to make it right or face the consequences, Cain killed Abel in his anger and had to leave his family and work.

To Realize—when my students realize they have done something wrong, they should immediately take the steps to make it right, knowing that failing to do so will be much worse.

To Respond by—turning from known sin that is in their life.

Setting up the Story:

I once heard a first grader ask a 10th grader what she wanted to be when she finished high school. The first grader knew what she wanted to be when she grew up, but the 10th grader had no idea! I am wondering what you would say to that question? (students share) It’s happened again. There are some things I have NEVER heard a first or second grader, or even a fifth or sixth grader say they wanted to be. I have NEVER heard a child say, “When I grow up, I want to be a liar.” But there are thieves and liars...so if no one plans on doing bad things when they grow up, how does it happen? The person I want us to learn about today can help us. I think you know who I am talking about. His name is Cain I don’t think Cain ever planned on being a murderer when he grew up...but this is how it happened.

Scripture
Gen. 4:1-5

Telling the story:

- I. Cain Becomes Angry
 - A. Occupations
 1. Shepherd
 2. Farmer
 - B. Cain and Abel Bring Offerings
 1. Some of fruit
 2. Fat of firstlings

As you tell the story:

Was there anything wrong with being a farmer? No. So far we are ok. So far, Cain hasn’t done anything wrong.

One day they want to bring an offering to God. What does Cain do? (farmer.) So he

Gen. 4:6-7

C. God responds

1. Accepts Abel and his offering
2. Rejects Cain

D. Cain Becomes Angry

1. Because offering rejected
2. Face is downcast

II. God Warns Cain

A. If you do right=happy

gathers some fruit and brings it for his offering.

What does Abel do? (shepherd) so he picks out a perfect lamb and offers the best portions for his offering.

So far has Cain done anything wrong?

Yes. Cain had done something wrong. But we aren't told what it was. God accepted Abel's offering, but rejected Cain's.

We know that later people had to bring the blood of an animal. So maybe it was the wrong sacrifice that Cain brought. We know it says Cain brought "some" fruit and Abel brought the "best" lambs. So maybe it wasn't Cain's best. Maybe Cain didn't have the right attitude. We DON'T KNOW what was wrong with Cain's sacrifice. But we do know one thing: God said there was something wrong with it.

At that moment, does CAIN know he's brought the wrong sacrifice or had the wrong attitude? Yes. He did know... and he was ANGRY!

He wasn't angry with himself for bringing the wrong one. He was angry at God for not accepting it and angry at Abel for bringing an acceptable sacrifice.

Cain did not want to be corrected and told that he was wrong.

(Illustrate downcast face)

God could have punished Cain right then and said, "I've had enough of your pouting!" But He wanted Cain to be happy. God wasn't going to change what was needed for a right sacrifice,

Genesis
4:8-13

- III. Cain Kills Abel and Faces Consequences
- A. In field
 - B. God asks: "Where's brother?"
 - C. "How should I know?"
 - D. "What have you done?"
 - E. Land is cursed
 - F. Cain leaves family

but he told Cain, "All you have to do is the right thing."
All Cain had to do was to admit that he had brought the wrong sacrifice and bring the right one. Example of Tom and Jerry—lion crouching at the door of mouse hole.

What sin was crouching at Cain's door? PRIDE: he didn't want to be corrected. ANGER: At God and at Abel.

Concluding the Story:

Cain never planned on growing up to be a murderer, but when that anger was crouching at his door he didn't get rid of it. He didn't decide to just go ahead and make it right. Maybe Cain thought he was stronger.

(Bring a student to the front and have him put his hand together. Knot a thread tightly around his wrists and ask him to break it. Do it several times around the next time, and then ask him to break it. The third time keep wrapping it as you speak...) If you take care of the thread right away, it won't master you. Is you say, "Oh, I can handle that"—watch out! That thread, that sin, will master you. Maybe there is already something that you know is knocking at the door. Maybe, like Cain, you don't like to be corrected. Or maybe like Cain, there is jealousy and anger in your heart. If you know of something in your life that is wrong and shouldn't be there, you know what I think Cain would say to you? "Take care of it NOW and get it out of your life. Or one day it will be too big to control. It will master you."

Let's pray.

CAIN KILLS ABEL HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. How do you tend to respond when you are corrected or told you are wrong about something?
2. In your life, over what do you tend to become angry? Do you “let it out” or let it steep inside? How quick are you to confess and make the situation right?
3. Has there been, or is there an area in your own life that is “crouching at the door” to master you? A besetting sin or area of bondage?
4. What steps will you take to deal with it?

Application Questions to Think Through for your Students:

1. What areas in your students’ lives start as small problems but grow into bigger problems? Ex: maybe a little misunderstanding with a friend results in not speaking to each other for weeks, or families becoming angry at each other.
2. How do your students respond to correction?
3. What areas of besetting sin might your students be facing?

Memory Verse:

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Post-Lesson Activity:

Write 7-8 review questions from the lesson. Make a tic-tac-toe grid on the board, but instead of making the teams x’s and o’s, make them cats and mice. The cat is trying to get the mouse, and the mouse is trying not to get caught.

Homework Idea:

Write a letter to a friend from Cain as if he is already far away from home. Have him tell about “The biggest mistake of my life” and share advice about what he would have done differently.