



Cain Kills Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

Families are a big part of young children’s lives. First- and second-graders continue to identify strongly with their families and their parents. They enjoy family-oriented events and love to be included in special outings with Mom or Dad. But elementary-aged children can also struggle with jealousy of their siblings in the battle for attention. Use this lesson to remind kids that God gave us each of our family members, and help them discover ways they can show love to their family members.



► Bible Point
God wants us to love our families.


Key Verse
“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love” (Romans 12:10).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will actively love their family members.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Gift Grab <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game to get the “best” gift.	My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, crayons, tape, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
2 Bible Exploration	Farmers and Shepherds <i>(about 10 min.)</i> List chores that Cain and Abel may have done.		
	Greater Gift <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Compare the gifts of Cain and Abel described in Genesis 4:3-7, and offer the best they have as gifts to God.	Bibles, gift boxes from the “Gift Grab” activity, 1 paper towel per child, box of cereal, table, antibacterial gel (optional)	If you didn’t do the “Gift Grab” activity, cut out 1 box per child from the My Bible Fun Lesson 4 pages. Fold each box and tape the sides together.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Family Tree <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create family trees, and discuss how to honor their family members.</p>	<p>markers Teacher Pack: “Fruit Face” stickers, 1 copy per child of the “Family Tree” handout</p> 	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Cain Kills Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Brothers Cain and Abel

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Cain and Abel, the first two humans born on earth, chose different occupations. This early in human history, we see that God created people to be different—to have different interests and skills.

Cain Grows Jealous of Abel

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Abel's sacrifice to God came from true gratitude for what God had done for him; Cain's apparently came from a feeling of obligation to maintain God's favor. Abel offered the best he had; Cain offered simply a sampling of his fruits. It's likely that God accepted or rejected their sacrifices based on the attitude of the giver's heart. God wants our best and wants our hearts to be right.

God to Cain: Be Careful What You Do

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God knew Cain was at a dangerous junction. In Genesis 4:7, God's message to Cain was a loving warning—be careful what you do; sin can get the best of you. Unfortunately, Cain's jealousy got the best of him. The evil started by Adam and Eve continued. Cain proceeded with his planned deception and murdered his younger brother, Abel.

God Is Merciful to Cain

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God didn't question Cain after the murder to gain information. God was offering him a chance to admit his sin and repent. As with Adam and Eve, Cain's sin in killing Abel was followed by a second sin: trying to hide the sin from God. God's second question to Cain was one of accusation, encouraging Cain to consider what he had done.

When God pronounced judgment upon Cain for his sin, Cain finally came to his senses and realized that separation from God would mean his own death. As with Adam and Eve, God was merciful, providing protection for Cain even though he didn't deserve it.

Jealousy and sin ripped apart the family of Adam and Eve. Yet this was the family through whom God worked to populate the earth. God must've known from the beginning what a sinful bunch these humans would be, yet he loved them just the same. And that's a very comforting message for us today.

The Jesus Connection

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God has taught us about love through Jesus' life and through our own families. And he'll help us love family members the way Jesus loves us: mercifully and unconditionally. How has God taught you about love through your family? Take some time to write a prayer for each member of your immediate family, expressing how God has loved you through them and expressing your love for them. You can also pray for the families in your ministry. You can write your prayer here.





Gift Grab Supplies

My Bible Fun
several pairs of scissors
crayons
tape
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: “Gettin’ Gifts”
(track 10)

Gift Grab Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

1 GETTING STARTED

Gift Grab

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Let’s make gift boxes that contain our best fantasy gifts. Then we’ll play a game with those gifts.**

Have each child cut out the “Gift Box” from the My Bible Fun page. Then set out crayons, and have kids draw in the circle their most-desired fantasy gift—a new bike, a video game, or a toy, for example.

After kids finish drawing and coloring the fantasy gift, set out tape and show kids how to tape the gift box together, leaving the top able to open and making sure the fantasy gift drawings are on the inside.

Have kids sit in a circle and pile their gifts together in the middle of the circle. Say: **Now that you’ve all made your best fantasy gifts, let’s play a game to give them away!**

Explain how to play the game using the following rules:

- **Throughout the game, kids can choose any gifts but the ones they made.**
- **Each person will try to end up with the best gift in the pile.**
- **The first person will choose a gift from the pile and then open it.**
- **The second person can either choose a gift from the pile or can take the gift away from the first person. If the second person chooses the first person’s gift, then the first person chooses again. Otherwise, the third person can either choose a gift from the pile or can take a gift away from the first or second person.**
- **This continues until everyone has a gift.**

Check for understanding. Then play “Gettin’ Gifts” (track 10 on the CD). If the music ends before your game does, you can play the song again. After everyone has a gift, stop the CD.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to choose gifts and lose gifts?**
- **What does it mean to be jealous?**
- **Why do you think God tells us not to be jealous?**



Say: **Having brothers and sisters can sometimes be like the game we played: We all try to get the best for ourselves, and we may get jealous when we think our brothers and sisters are getting better things or better treatment than we're getting. But ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES and treat our family members even better than we treat ourselves. That can be a hard thing to do. Today we'll hear in the Bible about someone who let jealousy get in the way of loving his family.**

2

**BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

Farmers and Shepherds

What You'll Do

Say: **Adam and Eve were the first people God created, and they had two sons called Cain and Abel. The Bible tells us that Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd—he raised sheep. Cain tried to keep the soil good for growing things and Abel tried to keep the soil good for raising sheep. Cain worked with plants and Abel worked with animals. Let's think about how Cain and Abel might have spent their days.**

Put kids in two groups: the Farmers and the Shepherds. Ask each group to think of five chores its group might have to do every day. Ask several kids in each group to remember one or two chores and report them to the other group after the discussion.

Give groups a minute or two to think of chores, and then call time. Ask kids to name chores their groups might have to do every day. Applaud each group's efforts.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some other ways Cain and Abel might have been different from each other?**
- **How are you different from your family members?**
- **What can you do to love your family members, even those who are different from you?**

Say: **Despite our differences, our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES. Cain and Abel were different in many ways, and Cain let those differences get to him. Let's find out more.**





Greater Gift Supplies

Bibles
gift boxes from the “Gift Grab” activity
1 paper towel per child
box of cereal
table
antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

Greater Gift Easy Prep

If you didn’t do the “Gift Grab” activity, cut out 1 box per child from the My Bible Fun Lesson 4 pages. Fold each box and tape the sides together.

Greater Gift

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids clean their hands. Then say: **Which gift would you most like to receive: a sports car, a sweater with a hole in it, a half-eaten sandwich, a bike, money, or a video game?** Let each child share; then have kids discuss why some gifts are better than others.

Say: **The Bible says Cain and Abel each brought an offering to God. Let’s hear what happened.**

Open your Bible to Genesis 4:3-5, and show kids the passage. Then help kids find the verses in their own Bibles. Read the verses aloud.

Say: **To understand these Bible verses better, we’ll bring our own gifts to God to see why God liked Abel’s gift better than Cain’s.**

Have the kids find the gift boxes they made in the “Gift Grab” activity. Then give a paper towel to each child, and pour a portion of dry cereal on each child’s paper towel.

Say: **Look closely through these pieces of cereal, and put the very best ones you can find in your gift box. Leave the other pieces on the paper towel.**

Give kids a minute to complete the task.

Say: **Your gift boxes contain a gift similar to the gift Abel took to God. The paper towels contain a gift similar to the gift Cain took to God. Cain brought some of his plants as a gift to God, but Abel brought the very best he had to God.**

Invite one child to read aloud Genesis 4:6-7.

Say: **Turn to a friend and tell about a time you didn’t give your very best to a task.** Allow time.

Say: **Cain was very jealous of Abel. He was angry that Abel gave a better gift to God than he had. Sometimes it’s hard not to be upset when a family member does better than we do. We feel bad that we didn’t do our best. But our Key Verse shows us how God wants us to react.**

Open your Bible to Romans 12:10, and read the Key Verse aloud to kids: **“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love” (Romans 12:10).**

Let kids eat the cereal from both the good and bad gifts.



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you felt jealous of a brother, sister, or friend.
- How did your jealousy affect your relationship?
- What can you do to love your brothers, sisters, and parents?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** We can even learn from our families a better way to do things instead of being jealous. Let's give a gift like the one Abel gave—let's offer gifts of the very best cereal to God. Bring your gift box to the table as if you're giving it to God.

Have kids place their gift boxes on a table and then sit down again.



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Family Tree

What You'll Do

Say: **God tells us how to treat our families: he wants us to show them love. To celebrate the love we have for our families, let's make family trees.**

Set out markers and distribute the "Family Tree" handouts.

Say: **Our Key Verse says, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love" (Romans 12:10).** Have kids repeat the verse with you.

Say: **Brotherly love means we love each other in a deep way—it's an extra-special and close love.**

Have each child choose his or her favorite fruit sticker from the "Fruit Face" sticker sheet.

Say: **One way to show brotherly love is to share and give things to others to help them or to make them happy. Let's practice that now—give the favorite sticker you chose to someone else. As you do, tell that person, "I love you like a brother (or sister)."**

Have kids exchange stickers so everyone has one after the exchange. Have kids put that sticker at the top center of the tree on the "Family Tree" handout and label it "Me."

Say: **A family tree shows all the people in your family. You can use the stickers to show each person in your family that you can show brotherly love to.**

Family Tree Supplies

markers

Teacher Pack

- "Fruit Face" stickers
- 1 copy per child of the "Family Tree" handout





Hand out “Fruit Face” stickers so kids each have one to represent every person who lives in their homes. Tell kids to use the stickers as faces—they can stick them to the family trees and then draw bodies to go with the stickers. Help kids write their family members’ names beside the drawings. Encourage kids to discuss things they appreciate about each of their family members as they work.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **When is it hard to love your family?**
- **Why is it really important to love your family?**
- **How can our Key Verse help you remember how to treat your family members?**

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** Cain was really jealous of his brother, Abel, and he didn’t show very much love to him. Look at the family tree you made and think of one family member you could love better. Allow time. Now think of one way you’ll show love to that family member this week. Allow time.

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4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges
Supplies

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My Bible Fun

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

Have kids find this week’s Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Take your family tree home, and each time you see it, hug one of your family members.**
- **Pray for each of your family members this week.**
- **Volunteer to do your siblings’ chores this week.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.** Allow time.



Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES**—he chose our families for us before we were born. This week, look for things you like about each family member and show your whole family you love them as you follow through on your Daily Challenge. Learn from Cain’s bad example and show love to your family, even when you don’t feel like it.

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about loving our families. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Put kids in pairs. Play “Brotherly Love” (Romans 12:10) (track 11 on the CD). Have members of each pair pray for each other, thanking God for family differences and asking for help in showing brotherly love to family members.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack:

CD: “Brotherly Love”
(Romans 12:10) (track
11)



**Lyrics** ■■■■**Brotherly Love (Romans 12:10)**

Yeah, yeah,
Yeah, yeah,
Yeah, yeah,
Yeah.

Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.
Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.

Your love must be real;
It must be sincere.
Honor one another above yourselves.

Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.
(Repeat 4x.)

"Brotherly Love" (Romans 12:10) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

