



Cain Kills Abel

Genesis 4:1-16



► Bible Point

God wants us to love our families.

Key Verse


“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will begin to learn ways they can love their families.

From the moment they enter the world, children rely on parents and other family members to meet their needs. Families teach babies and toddlers their first hands-on lessons about love and trust. As little ones grow, family members become beloved playmates for toddler games and captive audiences for 2-year-old antics. With their families, young children feel safe, cared for, and loved. You can help them thank God for mommies, daddies, brothers, sisters, and other extended family members. In fact, you have the opportunity to minister to entire families through your work with one child.

INFANT


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	God’s Family Point out family members in a picture.	Teacher Pack: “Families” teaching picture	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Special You Listen to a song about families.		
	Family Play Learn a motion rhyme.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Tender Loving Care Care for a baby doll.	Bible, doll Teacher Pack: “Families” teaching picture	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Family Hugs Make “hugging” pictures while they talk about their families.	scissors, crayons or washable markers, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Family Hugs” page (at the end of this lesson), glue sticks	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out the arms from the bottom of each “Family Hugs” page for each child.
	Love Calling Answer a “phone call.”	toy telephone	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)	


Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





2-YEAR-OLD



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Loving Families Hear about Cain and Abel, and look at pictures of loving families.	Bible Teacher Pack: "Families" teaching picture	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	I Love My Family Make family pictures.	crayons or washable markers, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Family Hugs" page (at the end of this lesson), glue sticks	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out the arms from the bottom of each "Family Hugs" page for each child.
	Family Helpers Set a table to show how families work together.	table, place mat, paper plate, paper cup	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Cain Kills Abel

Genesis 4:1-16



BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Brothers Cain and Abel

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

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

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

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

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.






INFANT

**1 GETTING
STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate


What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "Family Song" (track 5 on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" to babies anytime during the lesson. Sing as you rock, feed, or play with the infants. Give infants gentle hugs and kisses as you sing "Family Song."

 **Did you ever see a family, a family, a family?
Did you ever see a fam-i-ly with so much love?
With hugs and kisses and kisses and hugs,
Oh, we have a special family, with so much love!**
(Repeat.)

Afterward, say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

As you sing "We Need God" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Ten Little Indians," gently help babies stand, sit, and turn around.

 **We need God as we stand up. Love the Lord with all your heart.
We need God as we sit down. Love the Lord with all your heart.
We need God as we turn around Love the Lord with all your heart,
To face a brand-new day. Deuter-on-o-my 6:5.**

Afterward, say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

**2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

God's Family

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As crawlers are playing on the floor or as you hold an infant, show the "Families" teaching picture. Pat or hug the baby to show your affection as you talk about the picture.

Say: **Look. I see a mommy. I see a daddy. There's a grandma. There's a brother.** Point to different people as you mention them. Older babies can point to the people as you find them. **The Bible tells us ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**



**Sing and Celebrate
Supplies**

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Family Song"
(track 5)

**God's Family
Supplies**

Teacher Pack
"Families" teaching
picture






Families give us hugs and kisses. Families take care of us. I get to love you and take care of you, too.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Special You

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "Special You" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Frère Jacques" as you rock or walk with babies.

 Mommy loves you, Daddy loves you.
I do too, I do too.
Love you with a hug, love you with a kiss.
Special you, special you.

Family Play

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sit a baby on your lap facing you as you do the motions to this rhyme:

This is the way the grandma plays,
Rockety, rockety, rock. (*rock baby gently back and forth*)
This is the way the grandpa plays,
"Show me that baby's socks!" (*grasp baby's feet and lift them up*)

This is the way the daddy plays,
"Give me a little clap!" (*clap with baby's hands*)
This is the way the mommy plays,
While you sit in her lap. (*bounce baby up and down*)

This is the way the brother plays,
Where's [baby's name]? Peekaboo! (*play Peekaboo with baby*)
This is the way the sister plays,
With a cootchy-cootchy-coo. (*gently tickle baby*)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.



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



TODDLER


1

**GETTING
STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate


What You'll Do

Form a group as you sing "Family Song" (track 5 on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" Have all the girls stand as you replace the words "Did you ever see a family?" with "Did you ever see a sister?" Then have the boys stand as you sing, "Did you ever see a brother?"

 **Did you ever see a family, a family, a family?
Did you ever see a fam-i-ly with so much love?
With hugs and kisses and kisses and hugs,
Oh, we have a special family, with so much love!**
(Repeat.)

Afterward, say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

As you sing "We Need God" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Ten Little Indians," encourage toddlers to stand up, sit down, and turn around during the first verse. Have them cross their arms over their chests as you sing the second verse.

 **We need God as we stand up.
We need God as we sit down.
We need God as we turn around
To face a brand-new day.**

**Love the Lord with all your heart.
Love the Lord with all your heart.
Love the Lord with all your heart,
Deuter-on-o-my 6:5.**

Afterward, say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Family Song"
(track 5)





Tender Loving Care Supplies

Bible
doll
Teacher Pack
“Families” teaching picture

Family Hugs Supplies

scissors
crayons or washable markers
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Family Hugs” page (at the end of this lesson)
glue sticks

Family Hugs Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out the arms from the bottom of each “Family Hugs” handout for each child.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Tender Loving Care

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather a group of toddlers together. Open your Bible to Genesis 4:1-16. Show children the words and tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible says Adam and Eve had a baby boy. They named the baby boy Cain, and they loved him very much. Later they had another baby boy, a baby brother named Abel.**

Show children the “Families” teaching picture.

Say: **Here are brothers and sisters with their families. These families look happy. They all love their babies, just like your family loves you. When we take care of each other, we have happy families. When we're mean to each other, our families are sad.**

Pass around a doll, and have children demonstrate loving, caring ways to touch the baby. Encourage children to gently pat the doll's head, arms, or tummy. Discourage poking, especially around the eyes and mouth. You may need to hold toddlers' hands and guide them to be gentle with the doll. Give everyone a chance to show gentle affection to the doll.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES and take care of them, just as you were loving with the baby doll.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Family Hugs

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out large crayons or washable markers, glue sticks, and copies of the “Family Hugs” page. Assist children in gluing the top of the arms to the handouts. Then show children how to make the kids in the picture “hug” each other. Explain that hugs are great ways to show our families love. Then let children color the images.

As children work, invite them to share about their families. Ask: **Who do you like to hug? Who is in your family?** Prompt toddlers with any names of family members you know. Remind them their family members love them very much.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**



Love Calling

What You'll Do

Use a toy phone or hold your fist to your ear to simulate a phone for this activity. Pretend to make the phone ring; then answer it and tell one of the toddlers, "It's for you." Hold the phone to the toddler's ear.

Say: "**Hello**, [toddler's name]. **This is Grandma. Grandma loves you!**" Encourage the toddler to make believe and tell Grandma he or she loves her, too, before saying goodbye. Use silly voices to simulate any members of the toddler's family. This kind of play encourages language development as well as reinforcing the significance of family relationships.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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


2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Form a circle as you sing "Family Song" (track 5 on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" Have all the girls stand in the center as you replace the words "Did you ever see a family" with "Did you ever see a sister." Then have the boys stand in the center as you sing, "Did you ever see a brother."

 **Did you ever see a family, a family, a family?**
Did you ever see a fam-i-ly with so much love?
With hugs and kisses and kisses and hugs,
Oh, we have a special family, with so much love!
(Repeat.)



Love Calling Supplies

.....
toy phone

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Sing and Celebrate Supplies


.....
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Family Song" (track 5)





Afterward, say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

As you sing “We Need God” (not on the CD) to the tune of “Ten Little Indians,” encourage 2-year-olds to stand up, sit down, and turn around. Have them cross their arms over their chests as you sing the second verse.

 **We need God as we stand up.**
We need God as we sit down.
We need God as we turn around
To face a brand-new day.

Love the Lord with all your heart.
Love the Lord with all your heart.
Love the Lord with all your heart,
Deuter-on-o-my 6:5.

Afterward, say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Loving Families

What You'll Do

Gather a group of children together.

Say: **Today we're going to learn about God's plans for loving our families.**

Open your Bible to Genesis 4:1-16, and tell children this is God's special book.

The Bible tells us about a man who got very mad at his brother. Cain was so mad at his brother Abel that he wanted to hurt him.

Have children make mean, angry faces.

Say: **It's okay to feel mad, but it's not okay to hurt people. ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES. Here are loving families. Let's see how these families are loving each other.** Point out each family grouping, and invite children to tell you what they see in the “Families” teaching picture. **These look like loving families. ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

Loving Families
Supplies

Bible
Teacher Pack
“Families” teaching
picture



3

**WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**



I Love My Family

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out large crayons or washable markers, copies of the “Family Hugs” page, and glue sticks. Help children use the glue sticks to attach the tops of the arms to the pages. Show them how to make the children in the picture “hug” each other.

Say: **This is a picture of two children from the same family. They’re learning to love each other because ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** Encourage children to draw hair and other features to represent themselves and another child, parent, cousin, or other family member.

Family Helpers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Work with three children at a time. Gather children around a table. Give one child a place mat, another a paper plate, and the third a paper cup.

Explain to children that they’ll be working together to set the table as if for a family member.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES. One way we can show love to our families is to set a place at the table for them. Let’s practice!**

Let children work together with your guidance as needed to make a place setting. When the setting is complete, applaud children’s efforts.

Say: **Hooray! You did a great job of working together. ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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I Love My Family Supplies

- crayons or washable markers
- My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Family Hugs” page (at the end of this lesson)
- glue sticks

I Love My Family Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out the arms from the bottom of each “Family Hugs”

Family Helpers Supplies

- table
- place mat
- paper plate
- paper cup

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

- My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)





Growing With Jesus



The Most Excellent Way

It's common for parents to feel insecure about their parenting abilities. Fortunately, children are resilient and typically overcome parenting mistakes. Ensure your child is safe and surrounded by love. Then relax and know that he or she is in God's hands.

Your child learned that God wants us to love our families (from Genesis 4:1-16). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Special You

Sing "Special You" to the tune of "Frère Jacques" as you rock or walk with your baby:

**Mommy loves you,
Daddy loves you.
I do too, I do too.
Love you with a hug,
love you with a kiss.
Special you, special you.**

TODDLER

Love Calling

Use a toy phone or hold your fist to your ear to simulate a phone for this activity. Pretend to make the phone ring. Then answer it and tell your toddler, "It's for you." Hold the "phone" up to your child's ear.

Say: "**Hello**, [toddler's name]. **This is Grandma. Grandma loves you!**" Encourage your child to make believe and tell Grandma he or she loves her, too, before saying goodbye. Use silly voices to simulate any members of your family. This kind of play encourages language development as well as reinforcing the significance of family relationships.

2-YEAR-OLD

Family Helpers

Give your child a place mat, a paper plate, and a paper cup. Explain that you'll work together to set the table as if for a family member.

Say: **God wants us to love our families. One way we can show love to our families is to set a place at the table for them. Let's practice!**

Work together to make a place setting. When the setting is complete, applaud your child's efforts.

Say: **Hooray! You did a great job. God wants us to love our families by working together.**

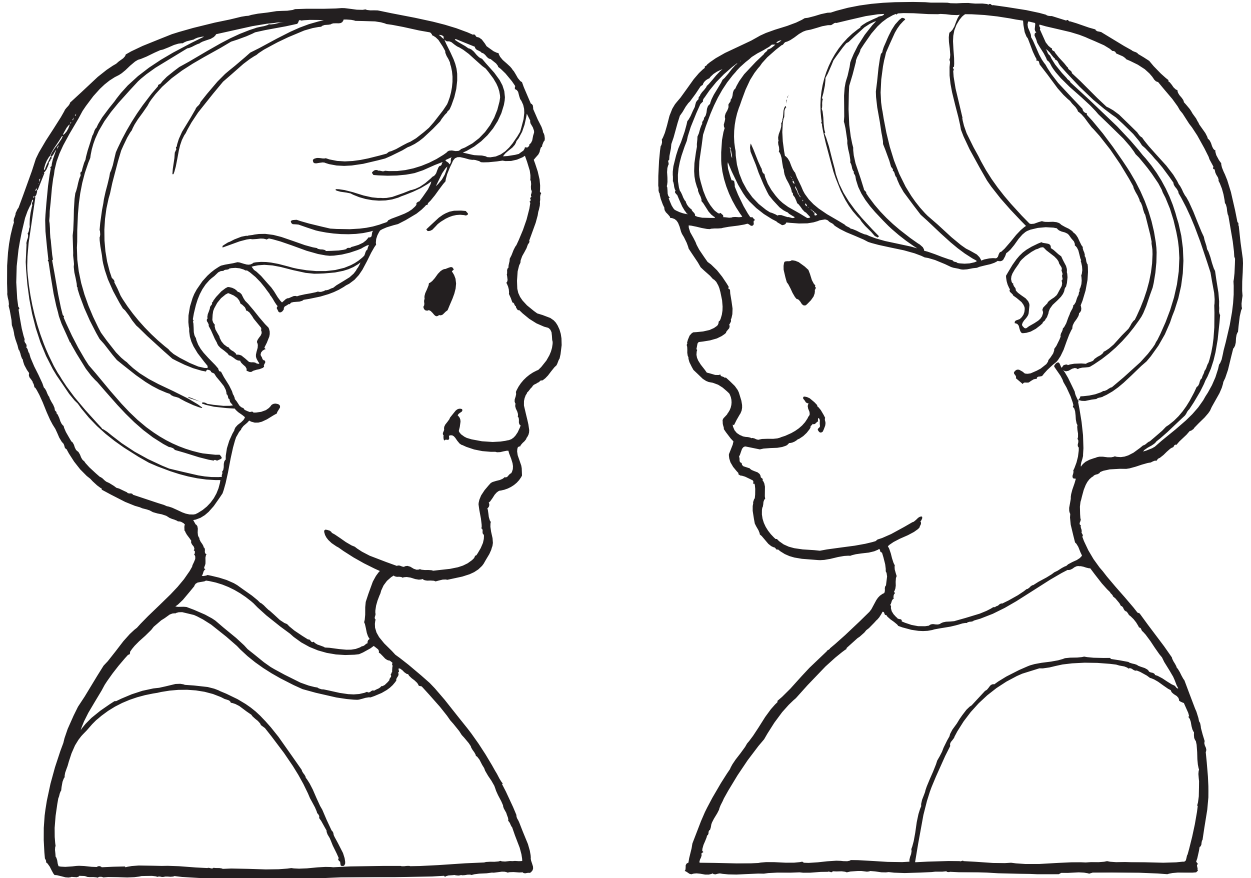
Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Make a recording for your child. Include favorite stories, songs, and a message of love to your child.
- Help your child ambush a family member with hugs.

**OK
TO COPY**



Family Hugs



OK
TO COPY

