

FALL

“Cain and Abel: Worship as Sacrifice”

Series Objective: Students will learn:

- Humans broke relationship with God
- Worship to God is a sacrifice
- Noah obeyed God
- Humans were self-centered

Series Theme Verse: “Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.” 2 Chronicles 20:18 (NIV)

Lesson Objective: Students will understand how Cain and Abel worshipped God through sacrifice.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 4:3-12

Materials Needed: Butcher Paper, Notecards for each student, crayons or pencils, marker, Series Theme Verse cut into pieces and hidden throughout the room.

Lesson Plan:

The Story:

Talking Points:

- Before you tell the story, tell the students you are going to talk about a specific word today: “Sacrifice”
- Ask students if they know what the word “sacrifice” means.
- Give students an example of sacrifice (Giving up something out of dedication to God)
- Read the story of Cain and Abel from the Lesson Passages, then paraphrase the story on the level of the students.
- What are the names of the two brothers? (Cain and Abel)
- Which son made God happy by doing his best for God? (Abel)
- Which son did bad and made God mad? (Cain)
- Why was Abel considered good? (He did what God said and gave God his best)
- Why was Cain not considered good? (He did not offer his best fruit)
- Cain became angry with his brother. He wanted God to be happy with what he offered. Cain was so angry that he killed his brother Abel. Is that a good thing to do?

- Should you ever get so angry that you hurt somebody? (No)
- Being angry is not a sin, but when we hurt others while we are angry, then we are sinning, like we talked about last week. When we hurt someone while we are angry, that does not make God happy.
- Did God punish Cain? (Yes, he would not be able to grow good food anymore)
- Why do you think Cain did not do his best for God? (He cared more about himself than God, He was selfish)
- Do we ever think about only ourselves? Have you ever been angry that your brother or sister got the last cookie or a toy that you wanted? What did you do when you were angry about that?
- Why did Abel do his best for God? (He loved God)
- What can we do to make God happy? (Various answers are possible, but help children see we should always try to live in such a way that we make God happy: do our best for our parents, at school, etc.)
- Ask the children what would have been a better choice for Cain? (Do his best for God, not be angry that Abel did his best for God, etc.)
- Remind students that even though Cain got angry and hurt Abel, God still loved him, but Cain would still be punished. Sometimes our parents punish us to help us to learn how to act right. They punish us, but they still love us.
- Help students see that Cain and Abel both sacrificed to God to show how much they loved God. The same is true in our lives. To worship God we must be willing to sacrifice the stuff that we might think is important to God and make God the center of our lives.

The Story Retold:

- Give each student a notecard and have them write “My Plan for Worship” on the card.
- Ask students if the Bible says we should worship God on Sundays and Wednesdays? (No, we should worship God all the time)
- Ask students “What are some ways that we worship God?” and write their answers on Butcher Paper in a column headed “Worship.”
- Ask students “What are some distractions that keep us from worshipping God every day?” and record their answers on the Butcher Paper.
- Have students write down one specific way they will worship this week every day (pray, read Scripture, sing a song, etc.)
- Ask students to be specific in their plan for Worship, time of day, where they will worship, etc.
- Have students look at the list of distractions on the Butcher Paper and think if any of these things might be a distraction from their plan for Worship and how they can avoid them this week.

The Story and Me:

- Have Series Theme Verse printed on a poster board cut into several pieces.

- Hide the different pieces in the room.
- Let the students find the pieces of the Series Theme Verse and piece together the puzzle.
- Once they put their pieces together, have them say the verse together.
- Remind students that the verse helps us understand that, God is worthy of our Worship and we should never let anything distract us from worshipping God.