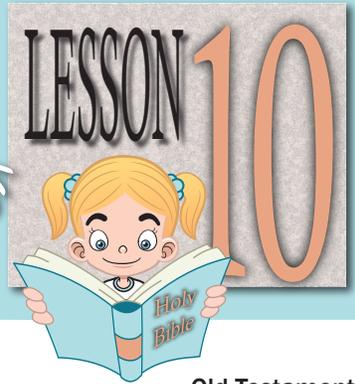


First Murder

Genesis 4



Old Testament 1
Part 2: Bible Firsts

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 1 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Genesis 4; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:10-12

MEMORY WORK:

“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it” (Genesis 4:7).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Genesis 4:7”](#)
- [“Cain and Abel”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Bible Facts](#) (provided under “O.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- [Creation & Bible Firsts](#) (provided under “O.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
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- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Older Students: Make flashcards showing the progression of sin: (Jealousy → Anger → Murder → Lying → No Sorrow or Repentance for Wrongdoing)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God is not happy when I am jealous or angry or act hatefully to others. Often, one wrong choice can lead to another wrong choice. So I must always be careful to make the right choices.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week, we studied about the first family. Who were the members in that family? (Adam and Eve, and their sons Cain, Abel, Seth, as well as other children whose names we do not know) We are thankful to God for giving us families, but sometimes families have problems. Sometimes those problems are caused by wrong choices that lead to more wrong choices. Today, we are going to find out how one brother's jealousy led to the first murder. Discuss the meanings of "jealousy" and "murder."

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Most of us have gotten mad at someone else. What do you do when you feel like that? Feeling mad or angry is not always wrong. It is good to be angry about sin, but most of the time, our anger is due to selfishness and not being happy with the situation God has given us. Oftentimes that anger leads us to do things that are wrong. Today we will talk about a man who did not handle his anger in the right way.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Adam and Eve decided to disobey God because of something they wanted. God gave them the ability to choose between right and wrong. They suffered because they made the wrong choices. (Briefly review their sins and the consequences.)
2. After God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, they continued to worship God. An important part of their worship was the animal sacrifices they offered to God.
3. Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters. One of their sons, Cain, became a farmer. Another, named Abel, became a "keeper of flocks," or a shepherd. When it came time for them to make their own sacrifices to God, they each took some of what they had and made an offering to God. Abel's sacrifice (the firstborn from his flock of sheep) **pleased** God, but Cain's (plants from his fields) did not. Why? Because God had told them how He expected them to worship Him and what sacrifices were pleasing to Him.



NOTE: Cain and Abel had to have known what would have been pleasing to God and what was not—even though we are not told what His specific instructions were (cf. Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12). Thousands of years later, when the New Testament was given to man (in the first century), God once again gave instructions about how to worship Him, and just like Cain, many choose to disobey God's instructions.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See "[**Feelings Follow Facts**](#)" by Eric Lyons and "[**Hermeneutical Principles in the Old Testament**](#)" and "[**Surrendering to His Lordship**](#)" and "[**Pleasing God in Worship**](#)" (DVD) by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for further study on Cain's sacrifice and why it was not pleasing to God.

4. Cain was angry with God—and with Abel. He was also jealous of Abel. God talked to Cain about his anger and jealousy, telling him that he must learn to control his thoughts and feelings or his jealousy would lead to more sin.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See “[The Cost of Anger](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of that subject.

5. Evolutionists believe that humans came from ape-like creatures and are just like any other animal. So, according to them, everything we do is by instinct, and we cannot help sinning. But God made humans in His image (Genesis 1:26), which included the ability to choose to do right or wrong, instead of by instinct. God told Cain that he could choose to “rule over” sin, instead of letting it rule over him (Genesis 4:7).
6. Sadly, Cain did not control his anger. Instead of trying to learn from Abel’s good choice and from God, Himself, Cain made the awful decision to kill his own brother. Then he tried to hide what he had done by burying Abel’s body in the ground. God knew what Cain had done, but Cain refused to take responsibility for his actions.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See “[Does God REALLY Know Everything?](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the charge that God is not omniscient since He asked Cain where Abel was.

7. Discuss the progression of Cain’s sin: Jealousy → Anger → Murder → Lying → No regret or sorrow for wrongdoing.
8. Cain was punished severely. From then on, he would struggle in his profession of farming; he and his descendents would be nomads, moving from place to place with no real home. He left his parents and the area where he had been born and went eastward to the land of **Nod**. But God did put a mark on him so that no one would kill him in revenge as Cain feared might happen.



NOTE: No one knows for sure the exact location of Nod. The land was probably not named “Nod” until after Cain settled there, which would explain its meaning “wandering.”



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the following articles on the Apologetics Press Web site for responses to charges against the accuracy of the Bible and against the Creation model:

- “[Does Genesis 4 Indicate that God Specifically Created Others Besides Adam and Eve?](#)”
- “[Was Cain or Seth Adam’s Firstborn Son?](#)”
- “[Who Did Cain Marry?](#)”
- “[Was Cain a ‘Wanderer’ or a ‘Settler’?](#)”

9. God is always ready and willing to forgive His children when we do something wrong because He loves us very much. If we are truly sorry for what we have done, ask for forgiveness, and change (repent), God will forgive us. But Cain did not ask for forgiveness; he only complained about his punishment.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- Cain and Abel review game: Put laminated pictures or figures of Cain and Abel (with a magnet on the back of each one) on a magnetic surface. Write facts about each brother on index cards. Put magnetic tape on the back of each card. Let each child draw a card and read it to them. Then let him put the card under the brother it describes. ([Cain and Abel cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets)
- [“First Murder Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- For each child, write the memory verse on a piece of white paper. Have hearts cut out which the children can glue on their papers (or let them use heart stamps or stickers).
- Have children make cards or little gifts for their brothers, sisters, or parents to teach the importance of showing love to others.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Encourage children to set a “Self-control Goal” for the week. (Children may need help in determining their own specific “self-control goals.”) Have a goal card for them to take home and return on Wednesday night. On Wednesday night, discuss how well they did with their “Self-control Goal” and discuss ways that might help them have more self-control.
- Display a large soccer “goal” on the classroom wall or bulletin board. Let students write their “Self-control Goal” on soccer ball cut-outs and put them in the goal on Wednesday night (or the following Sunday morning) if they have met their goals.
- Write several sentences from the story on the board, leaving one word out of each sentence. Ask the students to fill in the missing blanks.
- The [“First Murder”](#) word search (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Same activities as above.
- Have the children read Genesis chapter four. [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.]
- Have the children read pp. 20-21 of *Noah and the People of Faith*, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia, Contemporary English Version (DISCLAIMERS: p. 8—change “give life to” to “bring forth”; p. 13—remove “before the day is over” from the last sentence; p. 20—change “destroy” to “rule over”; p. 24—change appropriate sentences to “every kind of land animal...” and “Noah took males and females of every...”)
- Divide students into groups, and give each group a concordance. Have students look up biblical references to anger and jealousy.
- Memory Game: Use facts from this and previous lessons to make a memory game. Have a question on one card and the answer on another. Mix cards up and turn all cards face down. Have students turn over two cards at a time, trying to match the correct answer to each question.

- The “[First Murder](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read *Cain and Abel* by Nicole E. Dreyer, Arch Books (DISCLAIMER: some believe we should only pray to the Father—“dear Jesus” can be changed to “dear Lord” on p. 14)

SONGS:

“GENESIS 4:7”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” CD)

“CAIN AND ABEL” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean”)

Oh, Cain and Abel were brothers,
First brothers on earth, it is true.
Oh, Abel took care of the sheep,
And Cain had farming to do.

Now Cain hated his brother.
He was jealous both day and night,
So Cain killed Abel, his brother.
Cain just would not do what was right.

“Am I my brother’s keeper?
I do not know where he is.”
So God punished Cain for sinning,
A wanderer he became.

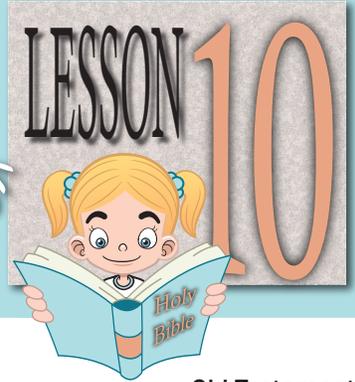
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



First Murder

Genesis 4



Old Testament 1
Part 2: Bible Firsts

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Old Testament 1 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Genesis 4; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:10-12

MEMORY WORK:

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SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God is not happy when I am jealous or angry or act hatefully to others. Often, one wrong choice can lead to another wrong choice. So I must always be careful to make the right choices.

INTRODUCTION:

- Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
- [Bible Facts](#) (provided under “O.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- [Creation & Bible Firsts](#) (provided under “O.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Talk about how easy it is to speak hatefully to someone at school who makes you angry, how easy it is to feel jealous of someone for making better grades or getting on the football team, etc. The best things to do are: walk away from the situations and people who make us angry until you can think more clearly and calm down; talk to someone who can help you; talk to God about your anger and ask for His help, etc.
2. Let children role play situations that involve how to handle anger in the right ways:
Can use words like, “I feel...,” “I do not like...,” etc, but must still choose to control their anger.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson

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