

CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 John 3:15 - **“Whoever hates his brother is a murderer:** and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” (Grades 1 & 2 memorize that part of the verse in **bold** print.)

Lesson Aim: To show that hating others is sin. It is murder.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Bill has a younger brother named Tom. Tom always does better than Bill. Tom does well in school, but Bill does poorly. Tom has many friends but Bill has only one friend. Tom got a home run in a ball game, but Bill did not even get one hit. Tom gets praised by his parents for his neat room, but Bill is often scolded for his room being so messy. Do you think Bill likes Tom? Do you think he should? If you were Bill, how would you feel about Tom? If you would hate Tom, you had better listen carefully to the memory verse.

HE (for Authority): Today's memory verse says that you can be a murderer without killing anyone. How can that be? God says if you hate someone, it is as wicked as if you killed him. (“Abiding in him” means “living in him.”)

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First, let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today we will study about a man who hated his brother so much that it caused him to kill his brother.

I. The Differences Between Cain and Abel (4:1-5)

A. Cain was older than Abel (4:1, 2).

B. Cain had a different job than Abel (4:2).

1. Cain was a farmer. He grew fruits and vegetables.
2. Abel was a shepherd. He raised sheep.

C. Cain had a different worship of God than Abel.

1. Cain offered fruits and vegetables to God.
2. Abel offered a lamb to God.

D. Cain had a different reaction from God than Abel (4:4, 5a)

1. God accepted Abel's offering because he brought a proper offering (blood was shed in it).
2. God rejected Cain's offering; he brought an improper offering (no blood was shed in it).

WE: God wants us to be obedient to Him and to do what He says. If we want our sins forgiven we will have to do it God's way and not do it our way. We must not blame or hate anyone if God refuses to bless us when we do something wrong...

II. The Hatred of Cain Toward Abel (4:5b-8)

A. Cain was angry with God (4:5b).

B. Cain refused to listen to God (4:6, 7).

C. Cain hated Abel and killed him (4:8; cf. 1 Jn 3:11-15).

WE: We must not get angry with God. This sin will lead us to do other sins. We could be like Cain and kill our brother, or we could hate him, which is just as bad.

III. The Punishment of Cain by God (4:9-15)

A. Cain was questioned by God about his brother Abel (4:9).

1. Cain lied to God. (He said, “I do not know.”).

2. Cain was rebellious to God He said, ("Am I my brother's keeper?")
3. Cain showed no repentance to God for his sin.

B. Cain was told by God that He knew what had happened (4:10).

1. Abel's blood cried to God from the ground.
2. God saw what Cain had done (Prov 15:3).

C. Cain was cursed by God for his sin (4:11-14).

1. The ground would no longer grow anything for Cain (4:12, 14).
2. He would no longer be able to live at home (4:12, 14).
3. He would no longer be able to come to God (4:14).

D. Cain was protected by God so no one would kill him (4:14, 15).

1. Cain was afraid that someone might kill him (4:14).
2. Cain was promised God's two-fold protection (4:15).
 - a. A curse on anyone who would kill Cain
 - b. A mark on Cain to warn anyone that might try to kill him

WE: We need to see that hating someone is very serious. It is like murder and it will be punished by God. If we hate someone, we will be punished.

BE (for Action): Today we learned that Cain got into a lot of trouble. Let's see if you can answer these questions.

How did Cain's trouble begin? (He was rebellious – he disobeyed God by bringing the wrong offering)

What made Cain angry? (God refused to accept his offering.)

Why did Cain hate his brother Abel? (Because God accepted his offering)

What did this hatred cause Cain to do? (It caused him to kill Abel.)

What two things does our memory verse tell us about a person who hates someone else? (He is a murderer and he does not have everlasting life.)

How can God help a person who hates someone? (If he confesses his sins and asks Jesus Christ to save him from his sins. God will forgive him and give him eternal life.)

Do you hate anyone now? If so, you need to confess that sin and ask God to save you. If you do that, God will save you and give you eternal life. (Give an invitation for the children to confess their sins of hatred and to ask Jesus to save them from their sins.)