



## 3rd & 4th

### Unit 2: A Broken World

### Story 3.A - Cain & Abel (Genesis 4)

**Story Focus:** Cain sinned against God.

(Next Week: Cain sinned against man.)

**INTRODUCTIONS** - Introduce yourself and consider having students do the same if you have children new to the group. Fill out the top of the Roster and take attendance.

**MEMORY VERSE** - Practice the verse together using one of the activities on the Memory Game List.

**Unit 2 Memory Verse:** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." ~1 John 1:9

**BIBLE TIME** - Have kids open their bookmarked Bibles (**Genesis 4**).

**Read Genesis 4:2b-5**

What did Abel do for a living? (shepherd)

What did Cain do for a living? (farmer)

They both made offerings to the Lord. How were the two offerings different? (Cain brought things he had grown, while Abel brought the fattest parts of the first animals born to their mothers)

What was God pleased with? What wasn't he pleased with? (He was pleased with Cain's offering and not with Abel's)

While the Bible doesn't tell us why God wasn't pleased with Cain's offering, we can make a guess that it was because Cain's offering wasn't the best of what he had or that his heart wasn't in the right place. What evidence do we have for these two guesses? (Cain brought some things from the field, while Abel brought the best of his flock to give to the Lord. Cain reacted in anger not contrition when the Lord didn't accept his sacrifice.)

Give an example of when you've done something just because you were told to instead of with a grateful heart. (allow discussion)

Why should we be grateful to God and want to give back to him? (allow discussion but be sure to include that we just learned how God created the entire universe. Our very existence is because of him.)

Why was it wrong for Cain to bring an offering that wasn't the best of what he had? (Bringing God what is left over or what you don't want is not really a sacrifice. It doesn't mean as much because it was what you already didn't want. Think of the difference between giving your friend your very favorite toy vs. giving them one that you never use anymore. Which means more? Which is more generous and shows more love to the other person?)

**Read Genesis 4:6-7**

When God told Cain that his sacrifice was not accepted, what was Cain's reaction? (Cain was angry and sad.)

Have you ever been upset when you were corrected or told that you were wrong by your parents or a teacher? (Allow discussion, but be sure to include the fact that we all feel this way at times.)

**Why is it sinful for Cain to react in anger when God corrected him?** (God is the one who decides what is right and wrong. By getting angry when God tells him that he is wrong, Cain is saying that God doesn't have the right to decide what is right and wrong. When we get angry at others who correct us, we are often putting ourselves above them. This is especially wrong in regard to God.)

**What does God tell Cain that he should do?** (The Lord tells Cain that if he does what is right he will be accepted.)

**How does God describe sin?** (He said 'it is waiting at the door to to grab you and it desires to control you)

**Think about what happened with Adam and Eve. How was their sin similar to Cain's? How was it different?** (Similar: both Adam & Eve and Cain sinned against God and in that sin were disrespectful of His authority. Different: Adam & Eve brought sin into the world when they were tricked by Satan, while God says that sin was already there waiting to control Cain.)

**\*Optional Extension: Read Hebrews 11:1-4 \*If you're short on time, you could just read 11:4 and only answer the first question.**

**What does the author of Hebrews imply is the reason that Abel's sacrifice was accepted?** (He had faith.)

**What does it mean to have faith?** (being sure of what you hope for and being sure of even what we cannot see)

**What was Abel praised for?** (being a godly man)

**How do you think that faith made Abel have a better sacrifice than Cain?** (allow discussion)

**Preview Next Week:** Next week you will study what happened after Cain was corrected by God and how the sin that began with Adam and Eve continued to corrupt others many years later.

**ACTIVITY: IT'S A MATTER OF THE HEART ILLUSTRATION** - Use the prepared cups to complete the following illustration of what happens when our heart is not prepared for God. Show them the two cups and talk to them about how from the outside Cain and Abel's hearts might have seemed the same. Have a volunteer smell the two cups to see that Cain's heart was sour while Abel's heart wasn't. Have the group tell you what happened when each man gave gifts to God. Starting with Abel, put in a spoonful of baking soda. Nothing will happen to the water. God was pleased with his gift and he felt good about giving his best. Now add a spoonful of baking soda to Cain's cup. Talk about how when we're angry it tends to build and bubble over like Cain's glass did. Ask the kids to tell you what God told Cain about his anger and jealousy.

## **PRAYER**

Ask the group if they have any prayer requests before leading the kids in prayer.

## **COMMUNITY & SNACK TIME**

Hand out snacks, and water. This is an intentional time to create a sense of community within the group. Sit at the table with the kids, ask the question of the day, and encourage conversation as they eat. If you have extra time, consider playing one of the community building games from the list.

**Question of the Day:** How many siblings do you have?