

Sunday School Stage 1 - Junior Class

Lesson 4 - Cain and Abel

Introduction to Sunday School

- **Attendance** – are there any students who need homework emailed to them?
- **Bible/Binder/Journal** – do they have them?
- **Homework** collect last week and hand back marked work
- **Memory Verses** – glue memory card onto sheet on wall.

Review (Genesis 3)

- What was the one commandment which God gave to Adam and Eve? (*Thou shalt not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*)
- What tempted Eve to break the commandment of God? (*When she saw it was.....*)
- How did Adam and Eve feel as soon as they had eaten of the tree (*ashamed*) and what did they do? (*cover themselves with fig leaves and hide*)
- What covering did God provide for Adam and Eve (*garments of skin*)
- What did this point forward to? (*Forgiveness through sacrifice – ultimately in the LJC Hebrews 9:22 – forgiveness of sins could only be possible with the shedding of blood*)

Lesson (Genesis 4)

When looking at these two brothers closer we realize that the in fact had a lot of similarities – but vastly different attitudes to their situation.

Cain	Both	Abel
<p>Means “gain” – this was the one thing in life he desired, he grew up selfish and sullen and placed value in building a name for himself)</p> <p>Tiller of the ground – followed the occupation of his father.</p> <p>Had his mind on the things of the earth.</p> <p>Brought vegetable sacrifice “of the ground” – similar to A&E making clothes of fig leaves (fruit of the ground) –tried offering based on his own wisdom.</p>	<p>Both sons of Adam & Eve</p> <p>Both were religious</p> <p>Both sough to worship God</p> <p>Both were prepared to sacrifice</p> <p>Both brought a vegetable sacrifice.</p>	<p>Means “vanity” He saw nothing of lasting value in this life and recognized the folly in the “ways of Cain”</p> <p>Type of Christ as “the good shepherd” John 10</p> <p>Remembered the manner in which God had provided his parents a covering, brought an animal as well as his offering of the ground.</p> <p>“also” vs 4 – in addition too</p>

- When Cain saw that God had accepted Abel’s offering and not his, he became angry and jealous – he was the first born after all!
- God tried to reason with Cain – God wants to dwell with us – he’s not a vengeful, angry God that is eager to punish evil doers.

- Vs 7 – “If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”
 - “Sin” translated elsewhere “sin offering” – God was saying there is a sin offering crouching at the door – all you have to do is take it, offer it and his offering would be accepted. But he was not prepared to do that! All Cain had to do was to humble himself before God and bring the right offering but he would not.
- Anger uncontrolled had smouldered into a great fire. It led to hatred, and now hatred led to murder. *Proverbs 15:32, 10*
- This is the saddest part of the whole story. Here we have two brothers – similar in so many ways, but anger and jealousy has mangled the mind of Cain. When he is alone in the field with Abel, his anger and envy boils over and he kills him. We might be tempted to try to have mercy on Cain – maybe his anger got the better of him, maybe it was an accident – but let us look in our centre margin (Color centre margin 1 *John 3:12-15*)
 - “slew” means to butcher, especially for animal sacrifice, to slaughter or main violently
 - It is as if Cain is so angry and jealous that his offering was not accepted, that in his anger he slaughters his brother as if to say to God “you won’t accept my offering of vegetables....blood needs to be offered, does it...while here’s your blood....here’s your sacrifice”
- Cain was punished – he was told the very ground he had farmed (and had used to try to cover up his sin) would no longer produce for him. He would wander from place to place. Vagabond means wanderer.
- “Presence of God” – the centre where God was worshipped, he was expelled from such a place until he was prepared to seek forgiveness in the way God devised.
- *Proverbs 28:13* When we are found in sin, we need to humble ourselves to recognize we have done wrong. We must never have the attitude of Cain to rebel against correction and seek to hide/cover our sin.
- Cain was sorry he had been found out, not that he had done wrong.
- The Lord Jesus Christ draws attention to the parallels between Cain & Abel and the Jews in his time and himself. *Matthew 23:33-39* – you will be looking into this more as part of your homework.

(Do not go into the chart, part of children’s homework)

Cain & Abel	Natural Israel and the Lord Jesus Christ
1. Jealousy and hatred Cain showed Abel 2. His hatred turned to thoughts of murder 3. Cain’s punishment was to be a vagabond and a wanderer in the earth. 4. God set a protective mark on Cain that no man should kill him.	1. Attitude of the Jews to the LJC (Ps 69:4), refusing to listen to him Psalm 69:4, John 5:16-18 2. John 8:44, Matt 23:33-36, John 7:1; John 8:39-45; John 10:31; John 11:8, 53 3. The Jews taken from the land and scattered throughout the whole earth. Ezekiel 36:17-20, Deut. 28: 45-50, 64-66 4. God made them a distinctive people and preserved them so that they survived 1900 years of persecution. Genesis 12:3

Main Lessons for Us

- It is not enough to merely worship God – we must worship Him correctly, according to His terms.
- When we honour God’s ways, He extends mercy to us.

- The antagonism between those that follows God’s ways (seed of the woman) and those who follow their own way (seed of the serpent) still exists today.
- We all sin at times but we must be honest and humble enough to admit that we have done wrong. God is pleased when we acknowledge our faults and try to change our behaviour.

Bible Marking

Places (Orange)

in the field (vs 8), land of Nod, east of Eden (vs 16) city Enoch (vs 17)

Time (Green)

In the course of time (vs 3)

Keyword (Yellow)

Ground (vs 2,3,10,11,12,14)

Women in the Beginning Journals ☺

Leave blank page for “Adah and Zillah” if desired