

Bible Passage: Genesis 4-5

CHRIST CONNECTION: Everyone in Adam and Eve’s family sinned too. God promised to send His Son, Jesus, to save sinners.

Key Passage: Everyone makes wrong choices. Romans 3:23

Big Picture Question: *What does it mean to sin? We sin when we disobey God.*

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Siblings often fight and compete as children and even adults. It may be over something as innocent as who gets the last cookie or as serious as who inherits their parents’ prized heirloom.

The competition Cain felt toward Abel—the world’s first siblings—reminds us that these family tensions can cause great damage to our relationships with one another, with parents, and even with God.

In the story of Cain and Abel, we find a progressing pattern of jealousy, which led to hatred, which led to murder. The result was not one but two lost sons for Adam and Eve.

God’s disregard of Cain’s offering stirred an intense jealousy and anger within Cain. Cain raged not only because his offering was rejected by God, but also because his brother’s offering was accepted by the Lord. Cain’s jealousy led him into a pit of misdirected hatred of Abel, ultimately leading him to murder his brother. The consequence of sin—death—that God had warned Adam and Eve about had come to fruition.

Jealousy never produces anything godly in us. And why is that? It’s primarily because jealousy is nothing more than proof that we have staked our identity on what we have done or can do, rather than on what God has done for us through Christ.

When you are tempted to compare yourself to others, let that trigger a reminder of who you are in Christ.

Second Corinthians 5:17 tells us that “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” As a child of God, our identity is not dependent upon what we do, but instead upon what Christ has done to save us through His life, death, and resurrection. Rather than living in the comparison between ourselves and others, let’s live in the confidence that we have been made new. In Christ, we are fully loved and accepted.

Fight the temptation to compare. Fight the urge to compete with others before God. And trust in the finished work of Christ. For you are not your own; you were bought with a price. And that price is one you could never repay.

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WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet preschoolers and welcome them to class. As children enter, have them decorate a paper bag. They will place their crafts and coloring page in the bag for easy transportation home. After children are finished decorating their bags, line them up outside the classroom along the wall for easy distribution and pick-up.

**** Please remember to reference the class schedules posted in your room for the timing of your class's various activities.*

BIBLE STORY

****Three-year-old classes will line up and march to 3B at 9:40/11:10.*

****Four-year-old classes will line up and march to 4B at 9:25/11:00.*

SIN SPREAD TO PEOPLE

Say: Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Abel was a shepherd and took care of sheep. Cain worked the ground, like a farmer. One day, Cain gave God some of the food he grew. Abel gave God some of his sheep. God was happy with Abel’s gift, but He was not happy with Cain’s.

Cain was mad. God said, “If you do what is right, I will be happy with your gift, too.” God warned Cain not to make a wrong choice, but Cain did not listen.

Cain and Abel went into a field. Cain was angry and made a wrong choice.

God knew what Cain had done. God punished Cain and sent him away. Cain went to a new land. He had a family, but they did not follow God.

After Cain left, God gave Adam and Eve another son, Seth. Seth grew up and had a family too.

Christ Connection: Everyone in Adam and Eve’s family sinned too. God promised to send His Son, Jesus, to save sinners.

ACTIVITY

MATCH PLANT AND ANIMAL CARDS

Using the “Plant and Animal Matching Cards”, mix the cards and lay them facedown. Invite preschoolers one at a time to turn over two cards. If the cards match, direct children to keep the cards. If they do not match, guide them to turn them back over. Play until all the cards are matched.

Say: We see pictures of plants and animals. Abel offered God sheep as a gift. Cain offered food to God as a gift. God was happy with Abel’s gift, but not with Cain’s gift. In his anger, Cain made a wrong choice. Everyone in Adam and Eve’s family sinned. Do you make wrong choices? Do I make wrong choices? Everyone makes wrong choices. Why do you think we make wrong choices?

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SONG

Sing the song below to tune of “The Bear Went Over the Mountain.” Pass out Bibles.

“I can open my Bible, I can open my Bible, yes, I can open my Bible,
And read about God’s love. And read about God’s love.
-And read about God’s love. Yes, I can open my Bible, I can open my Bible,
Yes, I can open my Bible, and read about God’s love.”

SNACK AND PRAYER

Take a restroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack. (Crackers and cups for water located in the cabinet above the sink.) Pray and thank God for the snack.

Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story.

When children finish snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

Say • Since Adam and Eve, all people have been sinners. God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin.

CLOSING ACTIVITES

Before doing closing activities please have the children help you clean up the toys and materials that have been used today. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let kids work on today’s **Bible Story Coloring Page** until their parents arrive. You can also choose a book to read to the children as they color or for those who don’t want to color. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged when parents arrive.

When parents arrive to pick up their children, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

- 1) Put away any remaining toys.
- 2) Use sanitizing spray to wipe down tables.
- 3) Sweep up any cracker crumbs or dirt.
- 4) Please return your bin, binder, and sign-in clipboard to the resource room across from Toddler A.