

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 leads to hatred, which leads to murder. The result is 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, coloring pages, and activity pages, 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.

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Plant or Animal” activity page.

Say: You circled the fruit that was different from the others in each row. When God made the first people, Adam and Eve, He put them in a garden and gave them food to eat. God said they could eat fruit from any of the trees in the garden, except for one. We will find out in today’s Bible story if Adam and Eve obeyed God.

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.

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CRAFT

MAKE A SHEEP MASK

See the provided example and help children make a sheep mask.

Say: Abel was a shepherd who took care of sheep. He offered God some of his sheep. This pleased God, but it made his brother Cain mad. Because he was mad, Cain made a wrong choice. This was a sin, and God punished Cain by sending him away. Everyone in Adam and Eve’s family made wrong choices too. God loves us even when we make wrong choices.

GAME

PLAY A GAME: PLANT OR ANIMAL?

Explain to the children you will say the name of an item. If the item is a plant, they will stand up and reach upward as if they are a growing plant. If the item you say is an animal, they will go on their hands and knees and pretend to be that animal. Possible items can include goat, corn, oats, rice, sheep, or cow.

SNACK AND PRAYER

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

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

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

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

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.

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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.