



SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

THE FIRST FAMILY

GENESIS 4

CHRIST CONNECTION

God had promised that one of Eve's descendants would put an end to sin and death.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalms 104:24

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Genesis 4 offers insight into the first family in history — showcasing sin's desire to rule human hearts and the merciful nature of God. Here, we read of Abel's blood that was wrongfully shed, which cried out for justice. Later, the Biblical narrative reveals to us One whose blood speaks a better word than Abel's — a firstborn Son would shed His blood to justify sinners and provide everlasting life. (Heb. 12:24)

What can we learn about God through His response to Cain's sin? How is Jesus the greater firstborn Son?

Brothers Cain and Abel both offered sacrifices to God, but the former's offering wasn't truly a sacrifice — pleasing to God and reflective of His true worth. God spoke directly to Cain asking him to consider why he felt so rejected by His response to the offering. God also warned him that though sin's temptations were strong, he could rule over it. Through God's encounters with Cain, we come to learn that God desires for the sinner to not be ruled by sin, which leads to death; rather, God calls us to trust Him by faith that we may do what is right. Yet Cain did not heed the words of his Creator. Instead, he chose for sin to rule over him, resulting in murderous actions toward his brother.

God drew near to Cain and addressed his wickedness, acknowledging the unjust death of the righteous Abel. God told Cain that he was now cursed. As a result, Cain would not receive back from the earth the fruit of his labors and would wander for the rest of his days. Even still, God protected Cain from the fate he forced upon his brother; he received protection against the threat of death by another's hands. However, this act was only a glimmer of God's mercy toward sinners. In Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we see the greatest picture of God's mercy toward sinners: the righteous blood of Jesus satisfies God's wrath over sin and provides our justification.

Reflect on Jesus' righteousness in light of the unrighteousness of Cain, Adam and Eve, and the rest of mankind. The promised descendant who would redeem us amidst our sin wasn't Eve's firstborn son, but Jesus, the firstborn of all creation. God's plan has always been to redeem us through faith in His Son. Pray for the kids hearing today's Bible story, that their hearts will be opened to the mercy of their Creator who leads us away from destruction and into everlasting life.

TODAY'S STORY POINT

Sin keeps us from God.



THE FIRST FAMILY

After Adam and Eve left the garden of Eden, they had a son named Cain and another son named Abel. Abel became a shepherd, and Cain worked the ground by growing plants and crops. Because sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel were sinners too.

One day, Cain gave God an offering of some of the produce he grew. Abel gave God some of the firstborn of his flock. God accepted Abel's offering, but He did not accept Cain's offering.

Cain was furious. God said to Cain, "Why are you so mad? If you do what is right, your offering will be accepted." Then God warned Cain, "If you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Sin wants you, but you must rule over it."

Cain said to his brother, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

God said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," Cain lied. "Is it my job to keep track of him?" But God knew what Cain had done.

Because God is holy, God had to punish Cain for his sin. "Now you are cursed," God told Cain. "You will work the ground, but nothing will grow for you. Instead, you will wander the earth, never finding rest."

Cain would not be able to stay with his family. He could no longer live in God's presence. Even though God punished Cain, God was merciful. He put a mark on Cain to warn people not to kill him. Then Cain left the land and went to live in Nod, a land to the east of Eden. He had a wife and a family, but they did not follow God.

God gave Adam and Eve another son, Seth. Adam and Eve's family grew. Seth grew up and had a family too. Around this time, Adam's descendants in Seth's family began to call on the name of the Lord.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God had promised one of Eve's descendants — Jesus! — would put an end to sin and death.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, kids can work on the provided coloring or activity pages. You can also do the Memory Verse Activity below as a class!

MEMORY VERSE

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

- Psalm 104:24, ESV



MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Using the TV in your room, review the motions video for this unit's memory verse. Practice the motions as a group and give kids the opportunity to do the motions by themselves.

To continue reviewing, write the verse on the board and have kids read it. Erase 1-2 words, then have kids read it again, filling in the blanks. Repeat until kids can say the whole erased verse from memory.

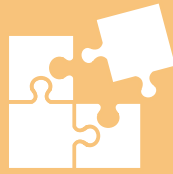
Bible Bucks day is next Sunday, September 22!

FOCAL POINT: STORIES

This semester, we're focusing on the power of stories — such as the true stories of the Bible, Jesus' parables, our testimonies, and more! Take some time this week to share at least one story of how God is working in your life or the lives of kids in your class.

Even "little" stories can have a big impact and encourage others to continue serving the Lord and loving the kids in our ministry. Use the QR code in your class or text Taylor to share your story!

K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group

ACTIVITY #1

Divide the kids into four groups and assign each group a table. Give each group one of the provided bags of beads and six small bowls.

Instruct the groups to sort the beads by color into each bowl. If you want, give the kids the option of being timed and see who can sort the beads the fastest!

CONNECT THE DOTS



When you sorted the colors, you had to separate them. Blue is not the same color as red, and yellow is not the same as green. Today we learned that sin separates us from God. God will not accept sin because there is no sin in God. He is holy and perfect. When we sin, we disobey God and His commands.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Mr. Wolf decided when it was lunch time and tried to tag you all. We've learned how sin separates us from God, but we know that God gave Adam and Eve hope that He would send a rescuer to save them from their sin. God chose the right time to send that rescuer — Jesus Christ — to save us all from our sins!

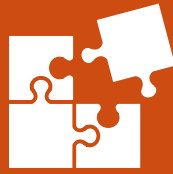
ACTIVITY #2

In the hallway or the Large Group room, have all the kids move to one side. Choose someone to be "Mr. Wolf" and have them stand with their back to the group on the opposite side of room/hall.

The group will say, "Mr. Wolf, Mr. Wolf, what time is it?" Then Mr. Wolf will reply with a time, such as 4 o'clock. Direct kids to take as many steps towards Mr. Wolf as called (e.g., 4 o'clock would be 4 steps, etc.).

Repeat until Mr. Wolf decides to reply, "It's lunch time!" Then Mr. Wolf will turn around and try to tag as many kids as possible while they run away from him. Play a few rounds, allowing kids to take turns being Mr. Wolf.

345 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games
with older kids after
Large Group

ACTIVITY #1

Have kids form a large circle, handing the two provided balls to different kids. Direct kids to pass the balls in opposite directions around the circle.

Play music for 15-20 seconds, allowing kids time to pass the balls around. When you stop the music, whoever is holding a “sin” ball is out.

Continue playing until one kid remains — the winner!

CONNECT THE DOTS



Being caught with the “sin ball” cast you out of the game. Last week, we learned how sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience. Because of their sin, all people sin. Today we learned that our sin separates us from God.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Mercy is an attribute (or characteristic) of God. God is merciful and He shows mercy to sinners. Today’s story showed us how God showed mercy to Cain even though he had killed his brother. God also shows mercy to sinners through Jesus Christ. When we trust in Jesus, we don’t receive the punishment our sin deserves. That’s mercy!

ACTIVITY #2

Split kids into five groups and provide each group with two Bibles. Assign one of the following verses to each group: *Proverbs 28:13*, *Lamentations 3:22-23*, *Ephesians 2:4-5*, *Titus 3:5*, *1 Peter 1:3*.

Direct the groups to look up their verse and discuss how it shows the mercy of God. Remind kids that mercy is “not getting the punishment we deserve”.

After a few minutes of discussion, invite groups to share with everyone what they learned about God’s mercy.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids while they wait to be picked up

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

After Large Group, ask the following questions and lead your class to discuss.

1. What is sin? Why must God punish sin?
2. How did Cain's sin separate him from God? How does our sin separate us from God?
3. God showed Cain mercy even though he sinned. What is mercy? How does God show us mercy?
4. Cain let sin rule in his heart. How can we not let sin rule in our hearts?
5. God promised that a Rescuer would come to save people from sin. How does Jesus bring us back to God?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your classroom. (*Hit the back button until you see it.*) There, you'll find games and activities to do with your class!



BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins
2. Clean all trash off the tables
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!