



SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

# THE FIRST FAMILY

GENESIS 4

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save people from sin.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

## MEMORY VERSE

God made our wonderful world. Psalm 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.

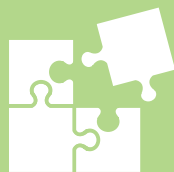
God drew near to Cain and addressed his wickedness, acknowledging the unjust death of the righteous Abel. God told Cain that he was now cursed. As a result, Cain would not receive back from the earth the fruit of his labors and would wander for the rest of his days. Even still, God protected Cain from 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 children 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.

# OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

### ACTIVITY #1: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “London Bridge is Falling Down”:

“God made our wonderful world, *(clap)*  
Our wonderful world, *(clap)*  
Our wonderful world, *(clap)*  
“God made our wonderful world *(clap)*  
Psalm 104:24.” *(clap)*

### CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, “God made our wonderful world.”  
Everything God made is good. God loves and cares for His creation. God is wonderful!

### CONNECT THE DOTS



Cain sinned like his parents did. Cain was not the Rescuer that God promised to send. Families grew and sin spread, and people waited for God to keep His promise. One day, God would send Jesus to rescue sinners.

### ACTIVITY #2: BUILD A HOME

Have children gather together in the play area of your classroom. Use the blocks in your room to build a home for the first family: Adam, Eve, and their children!

As children work, tell or retell the Bible story and talk with them about family.

# CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story

## CONNECT THE DOTS



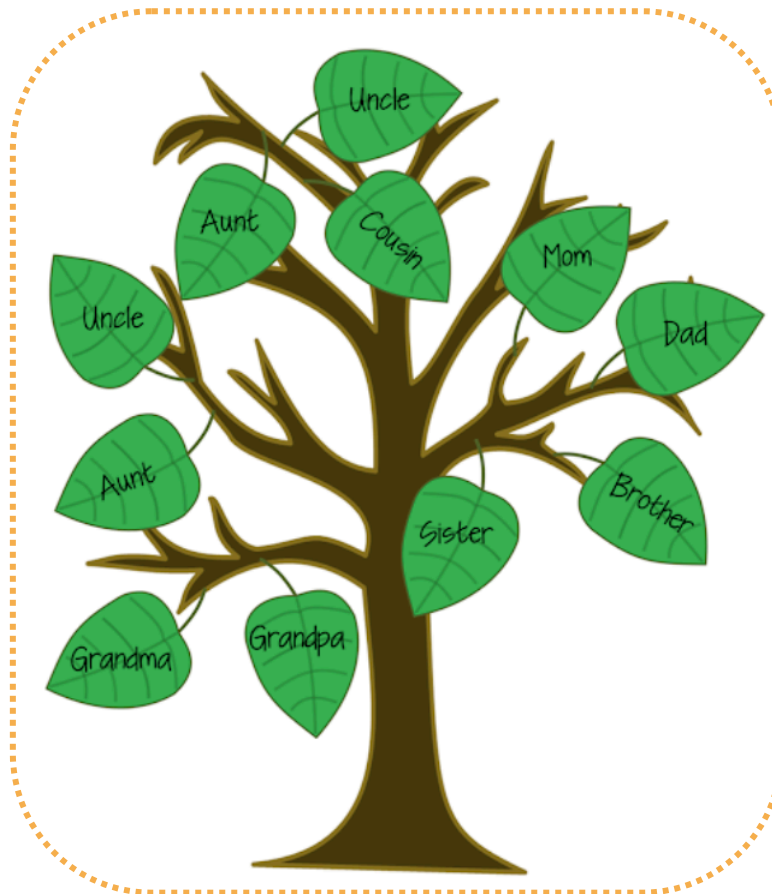
Adam and Eve had two sons. Eventually, Cain and Abel grew up. Cain sinned like his parents did. Cain was not the Rescuer God promised to send. Families grew, sin spread, and people waited for God to keep His promise. One day, God would send Jesus to rescue sinners. Sin keeps us from God.

## CRAFT: FAMILY TREES

*Supplies: family tree templates, decorating supplies*

Pass out the provided family tree templates and help them fill them in. Children can also decorate the templates as they like.

Talk to children about different people in their family as they work. You can also talk about Adam and Eve's family and review the Bible story as well!





## PREPARE

Open your Bible to **Genesis 4** and tell the following story.

## THE FIRST FAMILY

Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Abel grew up and took care of sheep. Cain worked the ground to grow plants.

One day, Cain gave God a gift of some of the food he grew. Abel gave God a gift too: some of his sheep. God was happy with Abel's gift, but He was not happy with Cain's gift. This made Cain so mad!

"Why are you so upset?" God asked. "If you do what is right, I will be happy with your offering." God told Cain to be careful. "Sin wants to control you," God said. "But you must control it."

Then Cain did something very wrong. Cain hurt Abel, and Abel died.

"Where is your brother?" God asked Cain.

"I don't know," Cain lied. "Is it my job to take care of him?"

But God knew what Cain did. God punished Cain. God said Cain would spend the rest of his life walking around the earth. He would not have a home. If Cain tried to farm, nothing would grow.

Still, God was kind to Cain and put a mark on him to protect him. Cain had to go live in another land. God gave Adam and Eve another son, Seth, and their family grew.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Cain sinned like his parents did. Cain was not the Rescuer that God promised to send. Families grew and sin spread, and people waited for God to keep His promise. Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to keep God's promise and save people from sin.

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. Why was Cain angry?
4. Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to **Room 108**

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**