



## LESSON 4

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Principle:** Envy, anger, and mastering sin.

**Bible Character:** Cain and Abel

**Scripture Reference:** Genesis 4:1-15



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, read Genesis 4:1-15. After Cain and Abel both presented offerings to God, God only accepted Abel's offering. Cain became angry and jealous, and ended up killing Abel. God punished Cain by making him a "restless wanderer on the earth," and putting a mark on him to protect him from being killed by anyone. We may not know exactly why Cain's offering was not accepted by God, but we can assume that Cain did not come to worship God with his offering in the right way. 1 John 3:12 says, "We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was righteous." We can see that Cain had evil intentions in his heart, and God recognized that Cain was not worshipping Him with a heart filled with worship. Are there times in your life when you do the right thing, but your heart is not on the same page? How often do you approach God with a heart of worship? God knows the condition of your heart at all times, and He desires for us to always be filled with worship for Him. Pray about any sin you recognize in your heart that prevents you from worshipping God with a heart fully His.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

When are some times that you have gotten really angry? What made you get angry? What happened when you were angry? Did you end up doing something that afterwards you wish you hadn't done? Did you hurt anyone's feelings because you allowed your anger to take control of you?



## BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

### The Bridge to Small Group

Today we are going to talk about Cain and Abel, and see an illustration of what happens when sin takes control. We will discuss the condition of our hearts, and the importance of asking God for help in mastering sin.

## Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

### Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? Why was Contestant #1 so mad? (He didn't win the cake contest.) What was the difference between why Contestant #2 made her cake as opposed to Contestant #1? (Contestant #2 wanted to make Ms. Bea a special cake because Ms. Bea is special to her; Contestant #1 just wanted to win the day off.)

Last week we learned about the first sin that entered the world. Who did we learn tempts us to sin, often doing the same trick over and over? (Satan.) What did Satan do to Eve? Satan tempted Eve to eat fruit from the tree God told her and Adam not to eat from. What did Adam do? Adam ate the fruit too. What happened after they ate the fruit? Adam and Eve immediately felt ashamed and covered themselves to hide their nakedness. Then they tried to hide from God. When He questioned them, they blamed someone else. How did God respond? God sent them out of the Garden of Eden forever.

Can you imagine what it would have been like to be in the Garden of Eden, walking and talking with God everyday in that perfect place? (Allow responses.) Can you imagine what it would have felt like to suddenly be thrown out, away from God and the perfect place He designed for you? (Allow responses.) It must have been the loneliest feeling ever. There is nothing good about sin. When we allow sin to control our hearts, it causes us to do things that hurt God, others, and ourselves.

Today we are going to look at an example of how sin causes this kind of pain. We are going to study the story of Cain and Abel, two of Adam and Eve's sons.

Let's begin reading in Genesis 4 [NLT] about Cain and Abel.

### Genesis 4:2b-5

*When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. 3 When it was time*

*for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, 5 but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.*

## Worthy Gift?



The purpose of this activity is to help the campers understand how Cain felt.

### Supplies:

Large bowl (1 per bin)  
Paper (1 sheet per camper – already in rooms)  
Stickers (2 sheets per session)  
Spool of yarn (2-3 per bin)  
Bag of colorful paper scraps (1 per bin)session  
Crayons  
Markers  
Glue  
Tape  
(Make sure all supplies are in the bowl before class begins.)

Each camper will create a “gift” that they will present to their teacher. The teacher will either accept or deny the gift based on whether the campers followed the directions or not. Teachers, make sure you say the following casually because we want to see how many kids actually listen to you and follow the directions of using the specific items you mention. (We are assuming that at least one camper will use those three items and at least one camper will not use those three items.)

Inside this bowl is a bunch of items. I want you to make some sort of gift that you will present to me. You can use only stickers, colorful paper scraps, and glue. You will have five minutes to make your gift, and once everyone is done you will present it to me.

Don't accept any gifts that are made with anything other than stickers, colorful paper scraps, and glue.

## Tie It Together



Campers, if I didn't accept your gift, how did it make you feel? Did you wonder why, or feel upset and angry? (Allow responses.) I didn't accept your gift because you didn't listen carefully enough to my directions to use only stickers, paper scraps, and glue for your gift. Instead you used whatever *YOU* wanted to use to make it. God accepted Abel's offering, but not Cain's offering. The Bible doesn't tell us why Cain's offering was not pleasing to God, but God must have told them what He expected from them when they came to worship Him. Maybe Cain didn't have the right attitude when he brought his offering. Hebrews 11:4 tells us that Abel showed his faith through the offering he gave to God, and God accepted it. Cain came to worship God in his own way, not the way God had commanded him, so God was not pleased with Cain. Cain felt very angry and dejected. “Dejected” means very unhappy or miserable.

Let's continue reading.

### Genesis 4:6-7

*6 "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? 7 You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."*

Cain was angry. What did God warn Cain about? (Allow responses.) He warned Cain that if he didn't do what was right, sin would be, "crouching at the door, eager to control" him. God wanted Cain to see that he had a choice to make. If he chose to do what God wanted him to do, he would not be letting sin gain control in his heart. Can you remember the consequences of sin that we talked about last week? (Allow responses.) Feeling ashamed, trying to hide from God, putting the blame on others, and separation from God. God knew the consequences Cain would experience if he allowed sin to take control, and God loved Cain so much that He tried to warn Cain of those consequences.

Let's see if Cain listens to God and makes the right choice

### Genesis 4:8-9

*8 One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." [c] And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.*

*9 Afterward the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?"*

*"I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?"*

What did Cain choose to do? (Allow responses.) Cain let his anger build up, and allowed sin to take control of him. What happened after he let this happen? (Allow responses.) A mess that could not be cleaned up or undone. God knew Cain killed Abel because God is all-knowing. Why did God ask Cain where Abel was? (Allow responses.) God wanted Cain to confess what he did and ask forgiveness. Even though Cain had killed Abel, God still loved him, and gave him a chance to repent and be forgiven. What did Cain do? (Allow responses.) Cain lied to God, saying he didn't know where Abel was. Cain allowed sin to control his heart when he killed Abel out of anger, and he allowed sin to control his heart by lying to God.

God knew that Cain had lied to him. In the rest of Genesis 4, God punishes Cain by making him wander the earth, not able to work the land. Even though Cain sinned against God, God still showed His love for Cain. We still experience consequences for our sin today, but God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus' death allows us to know God and live forever with Him, if we choose to believe and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Jesus' life on earth also gives us an example of how we should live our lives.

## Anger Explosion



The purpose of this activity is to help the campers understand what happens if we allow anger to build up inside of us.

**Supplies:**

Cup (1 per bin)  
Box/bag of baking soda (1 per bin)  
Spoon (1 per bin)  
Bottle/cup of vinegar (1 per bin)  
Pan/small bowl to catch the mess (1 per bin)

Put the cup in the pan/small bowl, and put a spoonful or two of baking soda in the cup. Explain that baking soda represents us. Show the campers the vinegar, and tell them it represents sin. Ask the campers what they think will happen if you pour vinegar into the cup. Allow some responses, and then perform the experiment.

\*\* Teachers, please dump the contents of the cup in the trash or sink to prepare for the next group.

**Tie It Together**

There are times when we get so angry that we lose control. When we let our feelings, such as anger, build up inside of us, it is very easy to let ourselves explode. When we allow ourselves to explode like that, we make a huge mess that affects us and usually the people around us. It ends up being a big mess that is hard to clean up, kind of like this mess we made right here! When a little vinegar was poured inside the cup, it made everything build up inside the cup and then “explode” out, creating a huge mess.

How did Cain create a mess? (Allow responses.) Cain got himself into a big mess when he let his anger build up inside of him and take control of his heart because he ended up killing Abel. Then he lied to God about it. When we allow sin to control our thoughts and actions, we make a big mess because we sin against God.

**What Should You Do?**

The purpose of this activity is to help the campers recognize a godly response and an ungodly response.

**Supplies:**

Situations list (1 per bin)

Go through the situations with your campers and have them work together to come up with the godly, Christ-like response, and an ungodly response to each situation. Talk about why they came up with each response. If you have a large class, you can break it into two groups and have each group come up with the two different responses for each situation.

**Tie It Together**



Whenever a situation comes up, we always have a choice in how we will respond to it. We can either choose to do what we want and allow sin to control our words and actions, or we can think about what God would want us to do and obey Him. When we choose to follow what we want to do, we are choosing to sin against God because we are disobeying Him. God wants us to worship Him by living a life that brings glory to His name. We can bring glory to Him by making choices based on what He wants for us.

## Offering Our Lives



The purpose of this activity is to have the campers examine how they can offer their lives to God to bring Him glory.

### Supplies:

Romans 12:1 sheep (1 per camper)

Bag of cotton balls with enough for 2-3 per camper (1 per bin)

Glue sticks

Read Romans 12:1. Explain that this verse means to give your life to God to live for Him instead of for yourself. This means not allowing sin to take control of your heart, like Cain allowed sin to do, and instead living to glorify God in everything you do.

Next, give each camper a Romans 12:1 sheep. Ask them to write or draw a picture (in the body of the sheep) of how they can give their life to God as an offering to bring Him joy. For example, it could be obeying their parents with a happy heart, sharing their toys with brother/sister, spending time in prayer with Him, giving encouragement to a friend who is sick or feeling sad. Give each camper a couple cotton balls to glue onto the sheep's tail and/or head. They can take this sheep home with them as a reminder of how God wants us to offer our lives to Him as a living sacrifice.

## Tie It Together



Abel's offering to God was acceptable. He gave the very best of what he had because he wanted to worship God and bring him glory. We can also do what Abel did, but with our lives. We can offer our lives to God by obeying His commandments, and living to bring Him glory. What are some ways that you can offer your life to God by obeying His commandments? (Allow responses.) God does not want us to allow sin to take control of our hearts. Instead, He wants us to ask Him for help so that our lives can bring Him joy. Each day, you have a choice in how you want to live your life. You can either live for God, or you can live for yourself by allowing sin to take control of your heart. God desires that you would live each day for Him.

## Wrapping Up

For the past couple weeks we've talked about how Satan tries to fill us with lies and tempt us to sin.

He tempts us to choose what we want to do instead of what God wants us to do. When we sin, God wants us to come to Him to repent and ask forgiveness. God does NOT want us to run away from Him and try to hide. He is a gracious, merciful God who will forgive us when we come to Him with a repenting heart.

When feelings like anger or jealousy pop up in our life that can encourage us to sin, we need to remember that God is there for us. He wants for us to ask for help. We can ask Him to help us do what He wants us to do, and stop sin from controlling us so that our lives can bring Him joy. We can use our Swords from God's Word that we made last week to fight off temptation and master sin.

## **Prayer Time**

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for giving His Son as the sacrifice for our sin, so we can know Him and be in relationship with Him. Ask God to help us recognize when sin is gaining control of our heart so we can master sin and glorify God.



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