



LESSON 4

3rd and 4th 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)

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 did not accept your gift, how did it make you feel? Did you wonder why? Did you feel yourself get upset and angry? (Allow responses.) I did not accept your gift because you did not listen carefully enough to my directions to use only stickers, paper scraps, and glue for your gift. Instead you heard what I said but you used whatever you wanted to use to make it. God accepted Abel’s offering, but not Cain’s offering. The Bible does not tell us why Cain’s offering was not pleasing to God, but we can assume that God must have told them what He expected from them when they came to worship Him. Maybe Cain did not have the right attitude when he brought his offering. Hebrews 11:4 says, “It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel’s offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts.” Abel showed his faith through the offering he gave to God, and God accepted it. Cain came to worship God in his own way and not the way God had commanded him, so God was not pleased with Cain. This made Cain become very angry and dejected (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 did not do what was right, sin would be, "crouching at the door, eager to control" him. What do you think this means? (Allow responses.) God wanted Cain to recognize that he had a choice to make; he could choose to do what God wanted him to do, and this would keep sin from gaining control of his heart, or he could allow sin to determine his response to being angry.

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." 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 chose to allow his anger to build and sin to take control of him. What was the result? (Allow responses.) A mess that could not be cleaned up or undone. God knew Cain killed Abel because God is all-knowing (omniscient). So why did God ask Cain where Abel was? (Allow responses.) God was giving Cain the opportunity to confess what he did and ask forgiveness. He was allowing Cain the opportunity to repent. Even though Cain had killed Abel, God still had compassion for him and loved him, and provided an opportunity for redemption for his sin. What did Cain do? (Allow responses.) Cain responded with a lie, saying he did not know where Abel was. Cain had 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.

Let's read the rest of the story to see how God responds.

Genesis 4:10-15

10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. 11 Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood. 12 No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth."

13 Cain replied to the LORD, "My punishment is too great for me to bear! 14 You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!"

15 The LORD replied, "No, for I will give a sevenfold punishment to anyone who kills you." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him.

God knew that Cain had lied to him. He punished Cain by making him a "restless wanderer on the

earth,” not able to work the land. Cain was overwhelmed by his punishment and cried out in fear of being killed by someone. God put a mark on Cain that would warn anyone against killing him because of the seven-fold punishment they would receive. Why do you think God did this? (Allow responses.) 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 His only Son Jesus to live a life of example for us, and to be crucified on the cross as the payment 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.

Anger Explosion



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

Supplies:

Can of soda (1 per bin)

Tie It Together



There are times when we get so angry that we lose control. It’s like this soda. (Show can of soda to your campers.) If I start shaking this soda, what happens on the inside of the can? (Allow responses.) Pressure builds up. Once the pressure builds up inside the can, what would happen if I were to open the top? (Allow responses.) Right, it will explode! But if I let this soda explode, it will make a terrible mess. It will probably get all over me and everything around me, and it would probably take awhile to clean it all up. When we let our feelings, like anger, build up inside of us, it is very easy to let ourselves explode. But 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. How did Cain create a big mess? (Allow responses.) Cain got himself into a big mess when he let his anger take control of his heart because he ended up killing Abel. And not only that, but he also 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 determine our words and actions, or we can recognize what God would want us to do and obey Him. When we choose to follow our own desire of what we want to do, we are choosing to sin against God because we are disobeying Him. God desires for us to worship Him by living out a life that brings glory to His name. We can bring glory to Him by making choices based on what He wants for us.

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.

