

References

Genesis 4; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 68, 71-79



Memory Verse

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9, NIV).

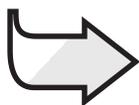


Objectives

The children will:
Know that just as God was present in Eden, He is with us today.

Feel eager to live in peace with everyone in God's family.

Respond by using problem-solving skills in their daily lives.



The Message

We honor God when we live peacefully with others.

Brotherly Love?

Monthly Theme

We thank God for His presence with us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, God did not abandon them. He continued to talk with them. He gave them instructions about bringing offerings to worship Him. Cain, a "tiller of soil," brought an offering of things he had grown. Abel brought the best from his flock. God accepted Abel's offering, not Cain's. When Cain became angry, God spoke to him saying, "Why are you angry? . . . If you do good, I will accept you" (Genesis 4:6, 7, ICB). Cain remained angry, and in his anger he hit his brother and killed him. God confronted Cain and sent him away from Eden.

This is a lesson about worship.

In the beginning God spoke directly with Adam's family. He reasoned with Cain and tried to help him solve his problems of anger and jealousy in a peaceful way. One way we can worship and honor God is to solve our problems with others in a peaceful way.

Teacher Enrichment

"Instead of acknowledging his sin, Cain continued to complain of the injustice of God and to cherish jealousy and hatred of Abel. He angrily reproached his brother, and attempted to draw him into controversy concerning God's dealings with them. In meekness, yet fearlessly and firmly, Abel defended the justice and goodness of God. . . . All this caused Cain's anger to burn the hotter . . . he was enraged. . . . In the fury of his passion he slew his brother" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 74).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5. Add an altar this week.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Angry Balloons</i> B. <i>Angry Collage</i>	balloons, markers magazines, newspapers, roll of paper, scissors, glue
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container from Lesson 5 paper, markers, trash basket
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	pictures of or real vegetables (see p. 145), cotton balls paper sheep (see p. 146), Bibles Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Role-Play</i> B. <i>Controlling Anger</i>	none white/black board or large piece of paper
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Peacemaker Hearts</i>	paper heart for each child (see p. 147), pencils

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share an experience from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- inflated balloon for each child
- markers

A. Angry Balloons

Give each child an inflated balloon. Say: **Have you ever been really, really angry? What did your face look like?** Let children make angry faces. Give each child a marker. **Now, draw on your balloon what your face looks like when you are angry.** Take time to look at all the angry faces. Say: **Now sit on your balloon and pop it. If it doesn't pop, I'll give you a sharp object to pop it.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What did it feel like when you popped the balloon? Look at your balloon; how much of your angry feelings are left? In our Bible story today we are going to talk about being angry. Jesus wants us to live at peace with everyone. Living peacefully with everyone is one way to worship God. Today's message says:**



WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- old magazines/newspapers
- roll of paper
- scissors
- glue

B. Angry Collage

Say: **Today we are going to make an "angry" collage. Take a newspaper or magazine and clip out pictures of angry people. When you have found some, come and paste them on the paper to form a collage.**

When the collage is complete, put it on the wall.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What do you think about all these pictures? Have you ever looked like them? What makes people angry? What happens when people get angry?** (People get hurt. Bad things happen.) **What makes you angry? In our story today we will learn about two brothers, one of whom was very angry. Jesus doesn't want us to get angry or hurt others. Living peacefully with everyone is a way of worshiping God. Today's message says:**



WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"We Grow in Many Different Ways" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 58)

"Alleluia" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 16)

"Clap Your Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 4)

"Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 12)

"He's Able" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 40)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize the theme of worship in the mission story.



Offering

Say: **Putting God first in all things is one way to worship Him. Giving to Him is another way we worship Him.**

You Need:

- offering container from Lesson 5



Prayer

Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 96). Give the children a piece of paper and encourage them to draw or write about something that makes them angry.

Say: **We can pray to God anytime and anywhere. Sometimes we are in situations that make us angry, but we can pray and ask God to help us live in peace with those around us. Let's take all the things that make us angry and put them in this trash basket. Now let's pray that God will help us in these situations.**

You Need:

- paper
- markers
- trash basket

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- pictures of or real vegetables (see p. 145)
- cotton balls or a picture of a lamb

Experiencing the Story

When you read or tell the story:

Give half the children a potato (or other vegetable/or a picture of a vegetable) and the other half cotton balls or a picture of a lamb or sheep. Each time you mention **Cain**, the children with the vegetables hold them up. Each time you mention **Abel**, the children with the cotton balls hold them up.

Read or tell the story.

After they left the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had two sons, **Cain** [*Hold up vegetables.*] and **Abel** [*Hold up cotton balls.*]. **Cain** [*Hold up vegetables.*] became a farmer. **Abel** [*Hold up cotton balls.*] became a shepherd. Every day **Cain** [*Hold up vegetables.*] worked in his fields while **Abel** [*Hold up cotton balls.*] took his sheep to graze.

Abel [*Hold up cotton balls.*] loved God. He wanted to do the things God asked. He liked bringing gifts to God, and he loved to worship Him.

Cain [*Hold up vegetables.*] was different from his brother. He didn't want to do what God wanted, he wanted to do his own thing. **Cain** [*Hold up vegetables.*] didn't want to think about what had happened to their parents.

You remember what happened. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat from any tree in the Garden except one. If they ate from that tree, they would die. But Adam and Eve listened to Satan and ate from the tree.

They did not die right away, but they had to leave the Garden of Eden. God told them about His plan to send His Son to die for them.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God

clothed them with the skins of animals. And as they watched the flowers die and the leaves fall from the trees they began to understand about death.

Then God showed Adam how to make an altar of stones. He showed him how to take a perfect lamb from the flock and place it on the altar. Adam had to kill the lamb and offer it as a sacrifice. Sacrificing an animal was a way for Adam and Eve to say they were sorry for their sin. It was also a way to show that they believed the promise that Jesus would come. This sacrifice was to remind Adam and Eve that Jesus would one day die for their sins. Adam and Eve felt terrible when they understood this.

When they were old enough, **Cain** [*Hold up vegetables.*] and **Abel** [*Hold up cotton balls.*] learned to sacrifice animals for their worship too. **Abel** [*Hold up cotton balls.*] accepted God's promise that Jesus would die for him. He wanted God to know he trusted His promise to send a Saviour. So he built an altar and sacrificed a lamb from his flock. God accepted his offering and sent fire from heaven to burn it up.

Cain [*Hold up vegetables.*] knew why they were to give sacrifices to God. But when it was time for him to make a sacrifice, he decided that he would not do it God's way. He built an altar just as **Abel** [*Hold up cotton balls.*] had done. But he put the fruit and vegetables he had grown on the altar instead of the lamb that God asked for. God didn't accept his offering. He didn't send fire down from heaven to burn it up.

Cain [*Hold up vegetables.*] was stubborn. He was angry because God didn't accept his offering. He was angry at **Abel** [*Hold up cotton balls.*] because **Abel** [*Hold up cotton balls.*] chose to obey God. And God had

accepted **Abel's** [*Hold up cotton balls.*] sacrifice. **Cain** [*Hold up vegetables.*] was so angry that he killed his brother. Because of his anger he became a murderer. And God had to send him away from his family. It was a very sad day for everyone.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you think Adam and Eve felt the first time they saw something die? Why do you think God showed them how to build an altar and sacrifice a lamb?** (To help them understand the result of their sin.)

Why did God accept Abel's sacrifice but not Cain's? Why did Cain get so angry with God and his brother? How did God feel toward Cain? (God was sad, but He still loved Cain even though he had done this terrible thing.)

What is the lesson for us? God wants us to live at peace with everyone. This is one way we can worship Him. Remember . . .



WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Cut out 13 sheep (see page 146). Write one word of the memory verse on each. Make a set for each group of five children in your class. Form groups, mixing readers and nonreaders. Have the children look up the reference (Matthew 5:9, NIV) and put the memory verse sheep in the right order. Have each child read the memory verse, removing one sheep/word each

You Need:

- 13 sheep cut-outs (see p. 146)
- Bibles

time. Finally, have the children repeat the verse together.

The memory verse is: **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"** (Matthew 5:9, NIV).

Bible Study

In advance, write the texts used in this activity where all can see.

Say: **It is not always easy to live at peace with others. But the Bible gives us some help on how to do it. To answer these questions, we will find and read the texts:**

1. What happens when we try to please God? Proverbs 6:7 (He will help us to live at peace with all men.)
2. What is one of the keys to living at peace? Proverbs 14:29 (patience)
3. What should we try to avoid? Proverbs 14:30 (envy)
4. How should we answer if someone is angry with us? Proverbs 15:1 (with a gentle answer)
5. What does Jesus say we should do if we have an argument with someone? Matthew 18:15-17. (Talk to them by yourself. If they do not listen, take someone with you to talk to them. If you cannot come to a solution, then leave them alone and do not have anything to do with them.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How does the Bible say we should handle conflict?** Summarize. **When we try to be peacemakers, we are doing what God wants us to do. It is one way that we worship Him. Let's say today's message together:**



WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH OTHERS.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

A. Role-Play

1. Ask five children to come forward. Explain so the rest of the class cannot hear: two pretend to be turning a skipping rope and two skipping. The fifth child should pretend to push one of the people skipping out of the way.

Ask: **How do we feel when someone pushes us? Why would some children do that? Does that kind of behavior make us happy or angry? If we get angry, what might happen next? How could you solve this problem in a peaceful way?**

2. Ask three or four children to come forward. Explain so the rest of the class cannot hear that they are to pretend to be eating a meal. One of them pretends to throw food at the others.

Ask: **What is happening here? What would you do if someone threw food in your face? How would you feel? If you were angry, what might happen next? How could you solve this problem peacefully?**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **Cain and Abel had a problem. What was it?** (Cain was jealous of Abel.) **What could they have done differently to solve the problem?**

When we have a problem, what can we do to solve it? God wants us to live at peace with everyone. When we do that, we worship Him. Let's say today's message together.



WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH OTHERS.

You Need:

- white/black board or large piece of paper

B. Controlling Anger

Ask: **What are some of the things that make you angry?** Have a helper write the children's answers where all can see.

Debriefing

What are we sometimes tempted to do when we get angry? (Hurt someone with our words or actions. Destroy things. Sulk. Run away, etc.)

What can we do so that we do not get angry? What did God tell Cain? (to follow God's rules)

What did our memory verse tell us about people who try to make peace? ("Blessed [happy] are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.")

God wants us to be peacemakers. Do you want to be a peacemaker? If we ask Him, He will help us keep our temper under control. When we are peacemakers, we are worshiping God. Let's say our message together:



WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH OTHERS.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Peacemaker Hearts

Copy a paper heart for each child. (See page 147.) Encourage the children to list some ways of resolving conflict on their paper heart.

Ask the children to share a “conflict” problem. Help the children to:

1. Identify each problem.
2. Tell how it makes them feel.
3. Tell what might happen if they get angry.
4. Suggest ways to solve the problem peacefully.
5. Make a decision to be a peacemaker.

Debriefing

Say: **Think of someone you want to share your heart with, someone in**

your family or a friend at school. Tell them what you have learned about being a peacemaker.

Allow response time as you ask:

Why is it better to try to find a peaceful resolution when you have difficulties with someone? Why is this better than getting angry or hitting?

How do we show people that we worship God when we solve our problems peacefully? Let’s say today’s message:



WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH OTHERS.

Closing

Close with prayer. Ask God to be with the children and help them to be peacemakers in the week ahead.

You Need:

- paper hearts (see p. 147)
- pencils

Brotherly Love?

References

Genesis 4;
Patriarchs and
Prophets, pp. 68,
71-79

Memory Verse

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9, NIV).

The Message

We honor God when we live peacefully with others.

Jerry was angry! His brother, Jimmy, had a new bike and Jerry got his brother's old one. Jerry was jealous. He wanted a new bike too. So one day Jerry just took Jimmy's bike and went for a long ride.

The Bible tells about two brothers. One was jealous of the other. And a terrible thing happened.

After they left the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain became a farmer. Abel became a shepherd. Every day Cain worked in his fields while Abel took his sheep to graze.

Abel loved God. He wanted to do the things God asked. He liked bringing gifts to God, and he loved to worship Him.

Cain was different from his brother. He didn't want to do what God wanted, he wanted to do his own thing. Cain didn't want to think about what had happened to their parents.

You remember what happened. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat from any tree in the Garden except one.

If they ate from that tree, they would die. But Adam and Eve listened to Satan and ate fruit from the tree.

They did not die right away, but they had to leave

their beautiful home. God told them about His plan to send His Son to die for them. But it would be some time before Jesus came to the earth. So God found a way to show Adam and Eve what it meant to die.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God clothed them with the skins of animals. And as they watched the flowers die and the leaves fall from the trees they began to understand a little bit about death.

Then God showed Adam how to make an altar of stones. He showed him how to take a perfect lamb from the flock and place it on the altar. Adam was to kill the lamb and offer it as a sacrifice. Sacrificing an animal was a way for Adam and Eve to say they were sorry for their sin. It was also a way to show that they believed the promise that Jesus would come. This sacrifice was to remind Adam and Eve that Jesus would die for their sins. Adam and Eve felt terrible when they understood this.

When they were old enough, Cain and Abel learned to sacrifice animals for their worship too. Abel accepted God's promise that Jesus would die for him. He wanted God to know he trusted His promise to send a Saviour. So he built an altar and sacrificed a lamb from his flock. God accepted his offering and sent fire from heaven to burn it up.

Cain knew why they should offer sacrifices to God. But when it was time for him to make a sacrifice, he did not do it God's way. He built an altar just as Abel had done. But he put fruit and vegetables that he had grown on the altar instead of the lamb that God asked him to use. God didn't accept Cain's offering. He didn't send fire from heaven to burn it up.

Cain was stubborn. He was angry because God didn't accept his offering. He was angry at Abel too. He was so angry that he killed his brother! God sent Cain away from his family after that. If only Cain had done as God asked!



If only he hadn't become jealous and angry. If only he had been a peacemaker.

Aren't you glad you don't have to kill a lamb for your worship? Aren't you glad that Jesus came and died to save you? Just pray to God and say, "I'm sorry for my sins. I accept Jesus' sacrifice. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, the One who died for my sins." He will hear you. He will accept you into His family. He will help you to be loving and kind at all times.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Ask someone to time you as you hunt around the house for things connected with the story of Cain and Abel. What did you find?
- During family worship, blow up a balloon, but don't tie it. Then let it go. What happens?
- Read Proverbs 15:1 with your family. Ask: How is a gentle answer like letting the air out of the balloon?
- Pray that you will always be a peacemaker.

Sunday

- Read your memory verse for family worship.
- Draw a big picture of a sheep. Write your memory verse on it. Cut it up to form a puzzle. Practice putting it together until you can say the verse without help.
- Ask an adult to tell you about a time they were angry and how they handled it. What can you learn from their story?
- Pray for countries around the world where people are fighting.

Monday

- Read Genesis 4:2-4 for family worship. What kind of lamb did Abel bring?
- Ask your family to help you find and read about three other shepherds in the Bible.
- Find out five things about sheep. Share your sheep facts with your family.
- Look around the house for things made of sheep's wool. Show them to your family.
- Pray together that you will always do your best for God.

Tuesday

- For family worship make a picture of the setting sun. Read and discuss Ephesians 4:26. Write under your picture why you think this advice is important.
- If you have been mean to anyone today, tell

them you are sorry (if you really are) before you go to bed. If you were mean today and aren't sorry, ask God to help you.

- Sing "O, How He Loves You and Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 28).
- Pray that your home will always be peaceful and happy.

Wednesday

- At family worship read and discuss Matthew 18:15-17. Make a list of guidelines for resolving conflicts.
- Cain was a farmer. Find out what the farmers near your town grow.
- If possible, plant some seeds in the garden, or in a container in the house. Water them and watch them grow.
- Ask God to forgive you for things you have done wrong.

Thursday

- With your family read Genesis 4:5-8. How did God try to help Cain be less angry? Why didn't God accept Cain's offering?
- Play follow the leader at family worship. Discuss with your family why it is important to follow God's leading. Ask Him to help you follow His leading.
- Find and count the different fruits and vegetables in your house. Ask your family what their favorite fruits and vegetables are.

Friday

- For family worship act out the story of Cain and Abel as someone reads it from Genesis 4:1-8.
- Talk about what you have learned about peacemaking this week. Have each person suggest a conflict situation and discuss ways to solve it together.
- Say your memory verse for the rest of the family.
- Pray that you will all be peacemakers.