



# Cain Rebels against God

*Genesis 4:1–15*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will understand that God punishes sinful attitudes and actions.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Identify the nature of the Cain's and Abel's offerings.
- Explain the Lord's response to Cain and His response to Abel.
- Identify Cain's reaction to the Lord's response.
- Identify the Lord's warning counsel.
- Evaluate Cain's rebellion against God.

## KEY VERSE

"And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering" (Genesis 4:4–5).

## APPLICATION

- Repent from your first sin. Don't keep sinning!
- Serve the Lord with gladness and obey His Word.
- Remember that God will punish sinners.
- Love the Lord with all your heart.

## NEXT WEEK

God Floods the Earth  
Read Genesis 6:5–7:24.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

# Teacher Planning Sheet

## PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Application

*As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*Three ways students need to apply this passage are*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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## Materials Needed

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## POINT

*Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.*

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- \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCLAIM

*Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.*

### Presentation Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Praise/Music Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICE

*Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

Adam’s nakedness was a source of shame for him in his fallen condition, and he sought to reduce its effects by covering his nakedness with fig leaves. When confronted by God and compelled to confess his sin, he was without hope and knew he must die. Yet God delivered Adam from his deserved end by killing an animal in his place and using its skin to make a garment to cover his nakedness. God was, in effect, delivering Adam from his guilt and shame by offering an acceptable sacrifice and making an acceptable covering for his sin. We can see here that God delivers His people from guilt and shame by means of an acceptable sacrifice. In the account of Cain and Abel, we will see that God is concerned with man’s heart attitude.

The account of Cain and Abel emphasizes the heart attitude of the offerer. Cain brought “fruit of the ground” (Gen. 4:3), apparently random samples of what he had grown, to the Lord. Abel, on the other hand, brought “of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat” (4:4). Abel cared enough to give the very best he had, and so the Lord looked with favor on both him and his offering. But because of Cain’s careless and indifferent attitude while bringing his offering, God “did not respect” (4:5) either him or his gift. Unlike Cain, Abel was motivated by faith in God. “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous” (Heb. 11:4). The Old Testament teaches that God will reject even the most perfect sacrifice if that sacrifice is offered by an apostate heart (Isa. 1:11–13; Hos. 6:6; Mic. 6:6–8). Samuel says, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams” (1 Sam. 15:22).

Cain could have responded to God by expressing a heartfelt desire to humbly obey Him from that time forward. Instead, he became “very angry, and his countenance fell” (Gen. 4:5). As was the case with the first sin, God came to the sinner, not vice versa (Gen. 3:9). The Lord asked Cain to justify his anger and encouraged Cain to examine himself. God promised that if Cain did well, he would be accepted and blessed. But if he refused to do what was right, sin would be close at hand, waiting to gain mastery over him. Cain resisted the grace of God, turned his back on Him, and slid deeper and deeper into sin.

Cain’s selfish attitude, displayed when he brought his offering to God, turned into anger when he realized that God did not look with favor on him. His anger was then replaced with jealousy toward his brother, Abel. He decided to get rid of Abel once and for all. He attacked Abel and killed him (Gen. 4:8).

Cain’s murder of Abel was monstrous not only because it was the first murder recorded in history, but also because it was committed by a man against his brother (1 John 3:12). And it was committed against an innocent man, a “righteous” man.

To try to cover up his brother’s murder, Cain lied to God. When asked where Abel

### Additional Reference Materials

*Paradise to Prison:  
Studies in Genesis*

by John J. Davis

*The MacArthur Study  
Bible* by John MacArthur

was, he said, “I do not know” (Gen. 4:9)—a deliberate and blatant lie. Then he continued to speak with indifference and a lack of concern: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

**Note:** Through the centuries, those words have provided a rationale down for people who refuse to get involved with the problems and difficulties their neighbors are having. Like the priest and Levite in the parable of the good Samaritan, they see human misery and suffering but pass by “on the other side” (Luke 10:31–32). They have little or no sense of responsibility toward others.

Cain had nothing to gain by lying to God because his brother’s blood gave him away (Gen. 4:10). Cain had disobeyed God, and disobedience always brings divine judgment. Cain would incur judgment and would be driven from the very ground that he had soaked with his brother’s blood (Gen. 4:11). Before, Cain had worked the soil, and it had produced plenty of food (Gen. 4:2–3). But now, though he might labor long and hard, the ground would no longer yield its crops for him (Gen. 4:12). The ground that had received the blood of Cain’s brother would never again provide Cain with the livelihood he had always enjoyed. Far from being the settled farmer he had always been, he would become a restless wanderer on the earth (4:12, 14). Cain would be a fugitive, or vagabond, moving from one place to another. Cain confessed that the punishment was greater than he could bear (4:13). He feared that whoever found him would kill him (4:14). Notice that Cain showed no hint of remorse, no desire to ask God to forgive him for the death of Abel. His response to God’s judgment was totally selfish.

Still, the Lord guaranteed Cain protection. He set a mark on him (Gen. 4:15). Whatever the mark or sign was, we can marvel at why God would promise to protect such a violent man and permit him to live. For that matter, why did God permit David to live after he committed adultery and murder (2 Sam. 12:13)? We can answer only that God is sovereign; His grace is boundless.

Cain’s failure to give God his heart along with his offering made it impossible for God to look on him with favor. Cain then became angry at God and jealous of his brother. Jealousy, as it grew and festered, gave way to murder, and Cain then lied in order to cover his sins. When his lie was found out and God pronounced judgment, Cain responded not with remorse over what he had done, but with complaints about his severe punishment and with selfish concern about his own well-being. Alienation from God was the ultimate result (Gen. 4:16).

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

What was the one commandment that Adam and Eve had to obey when God put them in the garden of Eden?

*Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

What had God told them would happen if they ate from the forbidden tree?  
*They would die.*

Summarize what the serpent told Eve.  
*First, the serpent began to place doubts about God in Eve's mind by having her question what God said. Then he told her a lie and said that she would not die if she ate from the tree.*

By saying these things to Eve, what was the serpent saying about God?  
*The serpent was calling God a liar. But God is not a liar. The serpent was the liar.*

What two things did Eve do after listening to the serpent?  
*She ate of the fruit and then gave some to Adam, and he ate.*

In what way did Adam and Eve immediately die after they ate from the tree?  
*Spiritually. Eventually, they died physically as well.*

What does it mean that they died spiritually?  
*They were separated from God in a way that they hadn't been before. It was as though a wall of sin came between God and them.*

Whom did Adam and Eve blame for their sin? Who was really at fault?  
*Adam blamed the woman and God, who had given him the woman. Eve blamed the serpent. Neither of them blamed himself, although each one was at fault.*

Name at least one judgment God brought on Eve.  
*She would have pain during childbirth; she would try to rule over her husband; her husband would rule over her.*

Name at least one judgment God brought on Adam.  
*The ground would be cursed because of him; thorns and thistles would grow; Adam would have to work very hard to grow food to eat.*



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## Telephone

Have the students sit in a row. Whisper a message to the student next to you. In turn, he or she should whisper it to the next person, and so on. Messages could be tongue twisters, statements such as, "After church we go home, eat some lunch, take a nap, and play with toys," or Bible passages such as, "Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground." Although the results often are humorous, this game demonstrates how one mistake—one sin—builds and compounds. At the end of the game, remind the students that the best way to know what God wants is to look in the Bible.



## The Curse

On the students' arrival to class and continuing throughout the lesson, mark a helper or parent volunteer as "cursed." (This curse could be represented by a large piece of poster board with Cain's curse from Genesis 4:11–12 written on it.) Inform the students that the cursed person cannot sit (representing Cain's curse to be a vagrant), cannot play with toys, and must carry weeds or dried grass (to represent poor crops). This will give an example of a curse and could lead into a discussion of God's instructions, how Cain chose to disobey, and how he was punished. God's mercy could also be discussed. In today's lesson, we will learn about a man who had a severe curse.



## Six Ways I Can Please the Lord This Week

Give each student a blank piece of paper. Tell the students to write down six ways they can please the Lord this week. In today's lesson they will learn about two brothers. One brother pleased the Lord and the other did not.

# PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included to use during worship time. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

## Bible Lesson

### Reading of the Text

Read Genesis 4:1–12.

### Introduction

What if I told you that a man did something bad and then God reminded that man what was right? You probably would think that the man would listen to God. God knows everything. He knows what is right. Yet we can look around today and see that most of the time, people do not do what God tells them to do, even though He has given them the Bible so that they can know what pleases Him and what He wants them to do. In today's lesson, we will learn about a man who did not want to listen to God. He wanted to do only what he wanted, even if it meant ignoring and disobeying God. Do not be like this man.



### Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** What two new people do we meet in this lesson?

**Answer:** We see that Cain was born to Eve, and then Abel was born.

**LOQ:** What jobs did Cain and Abel have?

**Answer:** Abel took care of animals, and Cain took care of the fields. Both of these jobs were good.

**LOQ:** What special thing did Cain and Abel do?

**Answer:** Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord.

**LOQ:** What offering did Cain bring to the Lord?

**Answer:** Cain brought fruit of the ground. Since Cain was a farmer who took care of the fields, he brought some of the things that he grew.

**LOQ:** What offering did Abel bring to the Lord?

**Answer:** Abel brought the firstlings of his flock and their fat portions. Abel did

not bring just any of the animals he had. He brought the best, the firstborn, to the Lord. The Bible also says that he brought their fat portions. These were special parts of the animals and were pleasing to the Lord.

**LOQ:** How did God respond to Abel's offering?

**Answer:** The second part of verse 4 says that "the Lord respected Abel and his offering." It is important to notice that God not only was concerned about the offering, but also was especially concerned about the one who made the offering. He had regard for both Abel and his offering.

**LOQ:** How did God respond to Cain's offering?

**Answer:** The first part of verse 5 says that "He did not respect Cain and his offering." The Lord did not accept Cain or his offering.

**LOQ:** What was Cain's reaction when he found out that the Lord did not respect his offering?

**Answer:** The end of verse 5 says that Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell (that is, the look on his face changed to show that he was very displeased).

**LOQ:** How do we know that the Lord knew Cain was angry?

**Answer:** Verse 6 tells us that "the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?'" God saw the change in Cain's face, and He also could see what no man could see: Cain's heart. Even if no one knows what is happening inside our hearts, God does. Nothing is hidden from God.

**LOQ:** What were the two parts of God's advice to Cain?

**Answer:** God told Cain that if he did well, he would be accepted. God also told Cain that if he did not do well, he would not be accepted. God was warning Cain to be careful because he was being tempted to sin. If Cain was not careful, he would sin. We all have to be careful when we are tempted because if we give in, then we are sinning.

**LOQ:** Did Cain listen to God's warning?

**Answer:** No.

**LOQ:** How do we know that Cain rejected God's warning to not give in to temptation and sin?

**Answer:** Cain murdered his brother, and murder is a sin. God was right when He warned Cain. But Cain refused to listen to God. Instead, he let his anger control him, and he killed Abel. What Cain did was very wicked.

### **Summary**

Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel. Abel was a keeper of flocks. Cain was a tiller of the ground. Both Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord. Since Cain farmed the ground, he brought something from what he grew. Abel, on the other hand, brought firstlings of his flock. God accepted Abel and his offering, but He rejected Cain and his offering. This made Cain angry. God knew that Cain was angry and told him that if he did what was right, God would accept him and his offering. God also warned Cain that because of his anger, he was in danger of committing sin: "Sin lies at the door." But Cain did not listen to the Lord. Instead, he attacked Abel and killed him.



## Presentation Ideas

### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



### Acting Out

Teachers or helpers can act out various scenarios, some of children being good and kind and others of children sinning. Help students to recognize what sin is and that we need to admit and confess sin.



### Veggies and Stuffed Animal Props

Bring a large basket of fresh vegetables to illustrate Cain's offering, and bring in stuffed lambs to illustrate Abel's.

## Praise and Worship

*Cleanse Me*

*Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down*

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*O Worship the King*

*Oh, Be Careful*

*Praise Him, All Ye Little Children*

*Seek Ye First*

*Trust and Obey*

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### God's Mercy Flower

Use this coloring sheet to reinforce to the students that God showed mercy to Cain. Read to them the five points listed on the flower, and then let them color the picture. The coloring sheet is located at the back of the lesson.

**Variation:** Bring sheets of colored construction paper. Let the students cut out petals, leaves, and a stem for the flower. Then have them glue the pieces to the coloring sheet.



### Abel's and Cain's Work

Materials: copies of the "Abel's Work, Cain's Work" craft page, cotton balls, dried beans and corn, glue

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page and some glue. Tell each





one to fill in the letters of Abel's name using cotton balls and Cain's name using the dried beans and corn.

### Love Your Siblings

Discuss with the students how they get along with their brothers and sisters. Ask them whether they have been jealous of one of their family members or have done something wrong to one of them. Ask them what God thinks of that. Ask them what they can do to show their brothers and sisters that they love them. Encourage them to find practical and tangible ways to care for their brothers and sisters.



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### Choices

Before class, cut out simple silhouettes of a man, using two different colors of construction paper. One color will represent Abel, and the other will represent Cain. During craft time, give each student a piece of construction paper and Abel and Cain silhouettes. Instruct the students to turn the paper vertically and fold up one third of it to make a pocket. Next, have them crease the paper in half down the middle. One side will be for Abel, the other for Cain. Have students staple or tape the pockets on the edges and on the center fold. Give them copies of Genesis 4:4b (to go on the Abel pocket) and Genesis 4:5a (to go on the Cain pocket). Next, give them a sheet of vocabulary words to glue on the appropriate silhouette. For sample words or phrases describing Abel, include *pleased God, had faith, humble, obedient, made a good choice, and brought an acceptable offering*. Words describing Cain include *hated, disobeyed, sinned, rebelled, angry, killed, and jealous*. Last, have the students insert the silhouettes into the appropriate pockets.



### Two-Sided Face Mask

Materials: paper plates with eyeholes precut, wooden craft sticks, yarn, markers or crayons, glue

Directions: Give each student a paper plate, a craft stick, and some yarn. Have students tape or glue the stick to the back side of the plate. On one side, have students draw a smiley face, representing Abel. On the reverse side, have students draw a frown, representing Cain. Glue yarn on each side of the plate as hair. Use markers or crayons to draw a nose and eyebrows.



### "Cain Rebels against God"

Use this work sheet at the end of class to review the lesson, or send it home to use with parents. This work sheet is located at the back of this lesson.



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### Journal Page: "I Can Choose to Obey"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can work on the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

### Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.

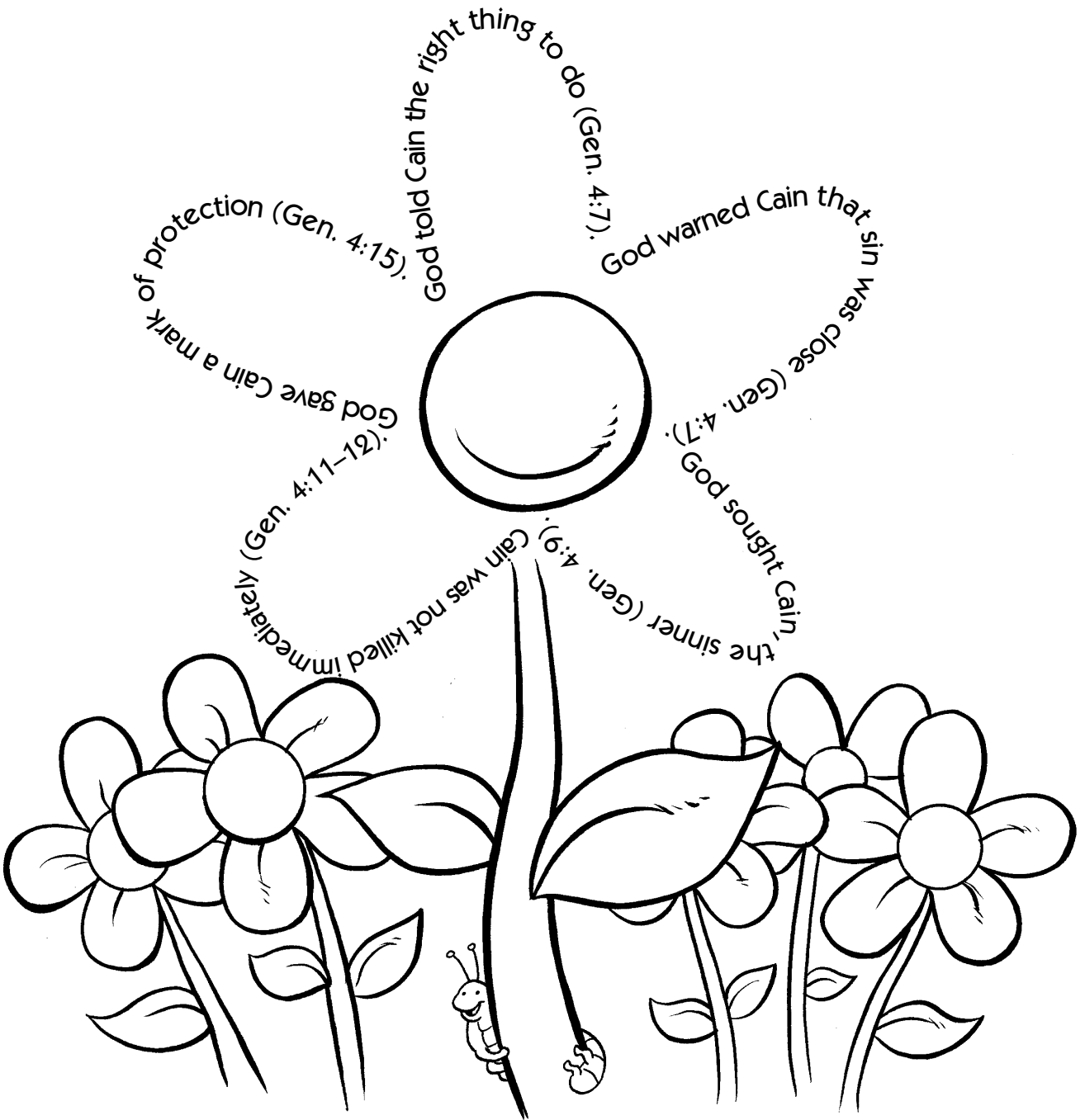


### MEMORY VERSE

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die'" (Genesis 2:16–17).



# God's Mercy Flower





# Abel's Work

A B E L

“Now Abel was a keeper of the sheep,

# Cain's Work

C A I N

but Cain was a tiller of the ground” (Genesis 4:2).



# Cain Rebels against **God**



**Genesis 4:1–8**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Genesis 4:2 tells us that Abel was a keeper of \_\_\_\_\_ and Cain was a tiller of the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. To whom did Cain and Abel bring an offering? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Whose offering did God accept, Cain's or Abel's? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When the Lord rejected Cain's offering, Cain responded with \_\_\_\_\_.  
                    repentance                      anger
5. God warned Cain not to sin. Did Cain listen to God's warning? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Cain do to Abel? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When God asked Cain where Abel was, Cain answered, "I do not know. Am I my \_\_\_\_\_?" (Gen. 4:9).
8. God showed mercy to Cain by giving him a \_\_\_\_\_ of protection (Gen. 4:15).





# I Can Choose to Obey

A list of words and phrases describing Cain's and Abel's actions is in the column to your right. Draw a line from each word or phrase to the person it describes.



**Cain**

Was Angry

Obeded

Hated

Was Jealous

Was Humble

Disobeyed

Killed

Pleased God

Didn't Please God

Brought an

Acceptable Sacrifice

Made a

Good Choice

Sinned

# I Can Choose to Obey

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Acceptable Sacrifice

Made a

Good Choice

Sinned



**Abel**

As we study God's Word, we gain the knowledge we need to please Him. This week, ask God to help you walk in a way that is pleasing to Him.

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I can learn how to please God by \_\_\_\_\_

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Some ways I can please God are \_\_\_\_\_

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When I sin, I should \_\_\_\_\_

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I can praise God because \_\_\_\_\_

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As we study God's Word, we gain the knowledge we need to please Him. This week, ask God to help you walk in a way that is pleasing to Him.

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When I sin, I should \_\_\_\_\_

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I can praise God because \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cain**



**Abel**





**"Cain was very angry, and His countenance fell" (Genesis 4:5).**





**“Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.  
Then the LORD said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’  
He said, ‘I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?’” (Genesis 4:8–9).**