



Date: _____

Series: God Saves and Protects Us
Summer Year 1, Lesson 8

Cain and Abel

Bible Event: Genesis 4:1-16, 25

Take Home Point: *GOD SEES OUR SIN, – *but God still loves us.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: God loves us enough to send Jesus to forgive our sin.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that all people sin sometimes – even people in the Bible. Cain committed a horrible sin against his brother Abel and tried to hide it from God. But God knew what happened. God sees all of our sins and loves us anyway. Kids will take home the point *GOD SEES OUR SINS, – *but God still loves us.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to its precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before starting the video. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting children to see what happens by watching the video. You could also introduce the video by inviting children to keep an eye out for special actions or words they will see during it.

Explain that today's Bible event is about two brothers. One brother got very mad and killed the other brother. Then he tried to hide what he had done from God. Let's see what happened...

Show the section "The First Family" of the video *Look What God Made: Great Bible Adventures* from 14 minutes to 17 minutes and 30 seconds.

Wrap up the video with some simple questions including:

1. What were the brothers' names? (Cain and Abel.)
2. What did Cain do to Abel? (Hit him with a rock and killed him.)
3. When God asked Cain where his brother was, did Cain tell God the truth? (No.)
4. Did God already know what happened? (Yes.)
5. What happened to Cain? (He had to leave his family.)
6. What should Cain have done after he sinned? (Tell God and ask for forgiveness.)

7. Even though God was angry with Cain, did God still love him?
(Yes.)

Explain that even though Cain was sent away, God still loved him and placed a mark upon his forehead so that no one would harm him.

When we sin, we should tell God and ask for forgiveness, too. God knows our sins no matter what, but he wants us to be sorry for what we do and to ask him for forgiveness. Remember: *GOD SEES OUR SIN, — *but God still loves us.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Give each child a few animal crackers and some chow mein noodles. These represent the livestock that Abel raised and the grain that Cain raised. Explain that God didn't care what they gave, he cared about what was in their hearts.

Drama Zone: Set up a quiet "church corner" with chairs and Bibles. Have children practice talking to God by praying and asking for forgiveness.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to retell the story of Cain and Abel and explain what Cain should have done instead.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Cain and Abel from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #5, "The Story of Cain and Abel," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Provide markers, crayons, etc. for children to color and decorate copies of the attached template.

Play Zone: Place children in a circle facing in. Have one volunteer in the middle of the circle. Have the children forming the circle pass a small ball or object (larger than a marble) around the circle behind their backs. Some kids should "fake pass" also. When the leader calls time, the child in the center must guess who has the ball. Have children take turns being in the center.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Cain and Abel.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: "Cain and Abel" coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes onstage looking down. The large group presenter asks her what happened. Judy explains that her brother Bubba has a stupid worm named Herman. She was mad at Bubba so she took Herman and buried him in the garden. She came back in the house and thought nobody saw her bury Herman! She thought she got away with it. But then Bubba and their mom came into the room and Judy saw that Mom knew what she had done.

Judy can't believe her mom knew. She must have eyes in the back of her head! The presenter tells Judy that reminds him of today's Bible story where someone named Cain did something bad and God already knew about it, just like Judy's mom knew about Herman. (Invite children to tell Judy the story of Cain and Abel. At the end, have the children tell Judy what Cain should have done and what Judy should do – ask God for forgiveness.)

The presenter wraps up by explaining that all people sin, even though we try not to. When we sin, God knows it! But we need to ask for forgiveness and tell God we're sorry anyway. That's what he wants us to do. Even when we sin, God loves us. In fact, he loved us so much that he sent his own son Jesus to die on the cross to take our sins away for good! Remember: ***GOD SEES OUR SIN, — but God still loves us.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Quantity (4)

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- *Look What God Made*, Questar Video, Inc.—order from:
http://turnerclassic.moviesunlimited.com/browse_list.asp?cid=RE&dept=Great+Bible+Adventures&subdept=&mscssid=K8EFDAE7UBGB8JTXCBASHPW5JF1587G2 or from: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/6303400817/qid=1127484444/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/002-1331796-6652867?v=glance&s=video

Action Zones:

Snack:

- animal crackers
- chow mein noodles

Drama:

- chairs
- Bibles

Craft:

- coloring page (see template)
- crayons and markers

Play:

- small balls or beanbags (about ping pong ball size)

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #5, “The Story of Cain and Abel,” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

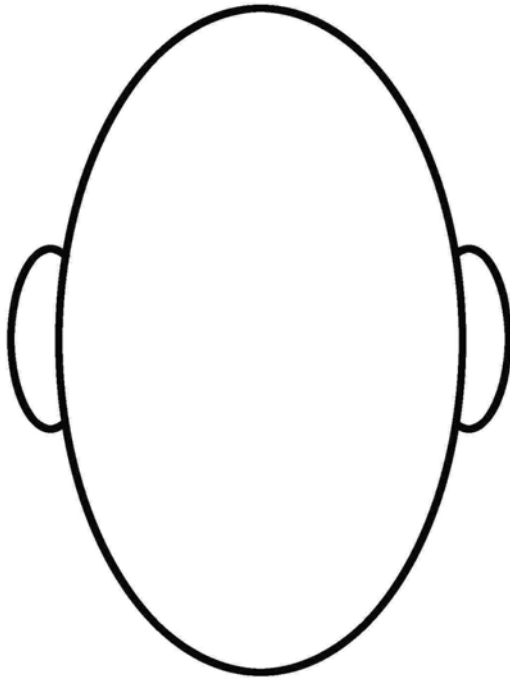
Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

God Saved Cain with a Mark



(Blank face to fill in and mark on the forehead)

God Saves Us with the Cross

