



Date: _____
Series: Pass The Promise
Summer Year 1, Lesson 8

Cain and Abel

Take Home Point: *Don't let sin be your master—follow God! *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Genesis 4:1-16

Key Verses: Genesis 4:7b: "Sin is lying outside your door ready to attack. It wants to control you, but you must master it."

1John 1:7b says, "And the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from every sin."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Cain killing Abel.
- The blood of Abel called out for justice and the blood of Jesus calls out for forgiveness.
- Cain sinned by not whole-heartedly honoring God, being jealous, deceiving his brother, murdering, and being indifferent.
- Our power over sin is trusting in Jesus, who lifts our sin away.




We will help kids feel:

- Convicted of how dangerous sin can be.
- Comforted that Jesus' life for us gives us forgiveness and the power to master sin.

We will help kids do:

- Play a hiding game and discuss how easy it is to hide sin.
- Identify ways that our sin might hurt family members close to us.
- Experience through a simple science trick how Jesus can lift the sin out of our lives.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Sin is disobedience to God. When we sin we feel bad inside and want to hide. The children will play the game "Who's Holding the Ice?" and discover it is dangerous to hide sin and continue practicing it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ice cube for each group
Large Group 	4 7-9 10-13 14	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Gordy and the Cookie Jar" Interactive Drama: "Cain, Abel, and Master Sin" Puppet Presentation: "Gordy and the Cookie Jar" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy football with a tape cross on it Master Sin, a character dressed in a black robe with a thin black covering over his head so he looks shadowy. Cain, an actor dressed in period costume and carrying a hoe table and chair large ice cube that was made in a margarine tub. A plate or pan will keep it from melting on the table. two sections of four-foot black yarn one four-foot section of red yarn salt shaker full of salt poster board on an easel or taped to the wall. thick black marker
Small Group Application 	4-6	Kids use red yarn to spell answers to questions. Red represents the blood of Jesus. Ice represents the cold-heartedness of sin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ice cubes in a tub or bowl for each group (dry not wet from melting) 10-inch sections of red yarn for each child (Have at least 7 sections for each group.) salt

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

“Who Is Holding the Ice?”

Have children gather in a close circle with hands behind their backs and facing the center of the circle. Choose one person to be “it” and have him stand in the center. Have him close his eyes while you place an ice cube in the hands of another child in the circle. She passes it to someone else and the ice cube continues to be passed around. The object of the game is not to be caught holding the ice. The person who is “it” has three tries to guess who is holding the ice cube.

The players can try to fool “it.” They can do this by pretending to pass the ice off to another person’s hand while still holding it behind their back. That person, in turn, can continue to pass the imaginary ice cube. However, sometimes the real ice cube is being passed. Since the ice cube is cold and wet to hold, facial expressions can give away who is holding the ice.

Alternate with new players in the center. After seven minutes of playing, gather the children in a circle and have them sit to discuss the following questions:

What did it feel like when you were holding the ice cube and you did not want to get caught with it? *(Nervous. Sneaky. Excited. Cold.)*

Do you think it would hurt to hold an ice cube in your hand for a long time? Why? *(Yes, because it might begin to freeze my skin. No, maybe it would melt.)*

Sin is doing things that are against God’s rules. It is disobeying God. Examples might be disobeying our parents or teachers. How is sin like the ice cube? *(Sometimes we try to hide it. It can hurt when we hold it too long. It makes us feel cold.)*

Have you ever tried to hide a sin and felt badly inside? Did you feel cold? Does anyone want to share a story about that? *(It is sometimes helpful if you tell a personal story from your life.)*

Today we are going to find out how dangerous it is to hide a sin or to continue practicing sin. We will watch the very first family who ever lived have a bad fight. One of the brothers was mastered by sin and did something terrible. We will learn **don’t let sin be your master—follow God!*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy and the Cookie Jar”

Gordy broke a cookie jar and tried to make excuses and blame his sister. Mr. King shows him that he doesn’t have to let sin be his master.

Interactive Drama: “Cain, Abel, and Master Sin”

The Bible event from Genesis 4:1-16 is acted out by Cain and Master Sin. A science experiment is used to show how Jesus’ death has the power to lift sin.

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy and the Cookie Jar” Conclusion

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Pass out a 10-inch section of red yarn to each child. (Each group needs to have at least seven of these sections of yarn.) The kids will use the yarn to spell the answers to the observation questions. Ice cubes are also needed for the end of this activity. (Keep frozen and dry until needed.)

Observation Questions: What happened?

Read Genesis 4:3-4.

Both Cain and Abel sacrificed to the Lord. Who gave their best?
(Abel.) **How can you tell?** (Verse 4 said Abel brought the choice parts.)

Which brother did not give his best to the Lord? (Cain.)

Have several children spell out the word “Cain” using their sections of red yarn.

When God was not pleased with Cain's offering, Cain was angry and disappointed. In verse 7, God gave him a warning. He said, "Sin is lying outside your door ready to attack." Don't let sin be your _____. (*master*)

Have the group write "master" using their sections of red yarn.

Did sin master Cain? Check verse 8. What did he do? (*Kill.*) Write your answer with the yarn.

When God asked Cain, "Where is your brother?" Cain said, "I don't know." This was a _____. (*lie*) Write your answer with the yarn.

In verse 9, Cain asked the question, "Am I supposed to take care of my brother?" Did Cain care or not what happened to his brother? (*He did not care.*) Write your answer with the yarn.

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

When Cain killed Abel, some blood got on the ground. Could that blood really talk? (*No.*)

But God said, "His blood cries out to me." What did that mean? (*God saw what Cain did to Abel. Cain needed to have a consequence.*)

What consequence did God give to Cain? (*He made him a wanderer. But he also put a mark on him and protected him from anyone else taking revenge on him.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

God told Cain in Genesis 4:7, "*Sin is lying outside your door ready to attack. It wants to control you, but you must master it.*"

How does this passage apply to us? Does sin want to master us?

But first John 1:7 says, "*And the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from every sin.*" What does the blood of Jesus do? (*It cleanses us from all sin.*)

Does the blood of Jesus call out, "Forgive them"? (*Yes!*)

Do we need God's forgiveness for some of the mean things we might have done to our brother or sister? Or even Mom or Dad? Who can give examples of some of those things we might do and need forgiveness for?

Application Activity:

Collect responses from the kids. As they give their responses, have some ice cubes ready so they can be placed in the center of the group and the kids can let their yarn drop onto the top of the cube. Salt the cube so the children can pick up the ice with their yarn. (See picture at right.) Say:

The ice reminds us of the cold-heartedness of sin, but the red yarn reminds us of Jesus' blood and how Jesus can lift sin.

If time permits, talk about how it is important to not hide sin or pretend we don't care. If we hurt our brother or sister, we must admit to God that it is wrong and we need forgiveness. We should also admit to our family member that we need his forgiveness too. We should care for that person instead of hurting him.



Let the children discuss common examples in their families. It is helpful if you illustrate this in your life as well. Remind them:

****Don't let sin be your master—follow God!***

Closing Prayer:

Have the kids pray for special needs in their families. Have them pray that sin would not be a master over them and the power of Jesus' forgiveness would lift that sin so it does not make them hard and cold-hearted to their family members.

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Large Group Presentation

“Gordy and the Cookie Jar”

Puppet Presentation

Take Home Point: **Don’t let sin be your master—follow God!*

Mr. King will need the football with the cross on it as he continues to link the theme, “Pass the Promise.”

Mr. King: Boys and girls, welcome to Kingdom Quest. Remember last week when we saw how God passed the promise to Adam and Eve. Even though they sinned, God would send them a Savior.

This week we are looking at their family and a huge sin committed by the oldest son against his younger brother. Once again we see how God wants to pass the promise to this family of how he can rescue them from sin.

Let’s see if Gordy would like to be a part of our Bible event as we see how God passes the promise to the first family. Gordy, are you there?

Gordy: *(Enters.)* I’m here, Mr. King. Hey, bring the football over here!

Mr. King: Good. I would like you to be a part of today’s lesson.

Gordy: Well, then hold it right here.

Mr. King: Where?

Gordy: Here!

(Mr. King holds football in front of Gordy.)

Gordy: *(Talking in karate-sounding language.)* Aaaaaa-eeeeee! Yah toh ching chang. *(Karate chops the football.)*

Mr. King: What are you doing?

Gordy: Practicing karate.

Mr. King: Are you getting ready for a tournament?

Gordy: No, I’m getting ready for my sister, Gerdy.

Mr. King: What? You’re not going to hit Gerdy are you?

Gordy: Just as soon as I get home!

Mr. King: Gordy, you shouldn't do that.

Gordy: Okay. Just as soon as I get home and my mom and dad aren't looking.

Mr. King: What I mean is that fighting and hitting your sister is wrong. You would be letting sin be a master over you.

Gordy: Well, I'll let my karate master over her!

Mr. King: Stop, stop, stop! Gordy, tell us what happened.

Gordy: Gerdy told on me.

Mr. King: What did you do?

Gordy: Nothing.

Mr. King: Nothing?

Gordy: Well, nothing much. I found a cookie.

Mr. King: Where?

Gordy: In the cookie jar.

Mr. King: What did you do?

Gordy: I ate it, of course.

Mr. King: Just one cookie?

Gordy: Well, that cookie had another cookie that was a friend who wanted to come along.

Mr. King: So you ate two cookies.

Gordy: Yeah, there was another friend.

Mr. King: You mean you ate three cookies?

Gordy: Six friends!

Mr. King: Oh. So you ate seven cookies.

Gordy: Right.

Mr. King: I suppose this was right before dinner.

Gordy: Nope, I didn't get dinner.

Mr. King: Why?

Gordy: I broke the cookie jar.

Mr. King: You mean you snuck cookies before dinner and then broke the cookie jar?

Gordy: Yeah, but my sister, Gerdy, told on me. It's all her fault! I hid the broken cookie jar at the bottom of the trash until Gerdy saw it. Then she asked Mom who broke the cookie jar. I was busted. But I'm going to get even.

Mr. King: Gordy, I don't think so. If you decide to hit your sister, you're adding one more wrong thing on top of the others you have already done. The Bible says that you are letting sin be your master.

Gordy: No, I'm the master—the master of karate. Now if I can just find Gerdy I'll...

Mr. King: Gordy, you don't need to use karate. You don't need to do something mean to Gerdy. Here's what you need. You need to learn from the Bible about one brother who let sin master him and he did something very bad to his brother.

Gordy: Hmm. I wonder if his brother told on him.

Mr. King: Gordy, you can go back and listen to the Bible event and I'll talk to you afterwards.

(Gordy exits.)

“Cain, Abel, and Master Sin”

Interactive Drama

CHARACTERS:

Mr. King: Bible reader and narrator

Cain: Dressed in period costume and carrying a hoe (designating his job as a farmer).

Master Sin: Character dressed in a black robe with a thin black covering over his head so he looks shadowy. The thin black material should be sheer enough for him to see through.

Supplies:

- *A table should be available for Cain to sit behind.*
- *A large ice cube that was made in a margarine tub should sit in front of Cain on the table. A plate or pan will keep it from melting on the table. The science trick of lifting the ice with yarn after salt is applied needs to be tested beforehand. NOTE: THE ICE NEEDS TO BE FRESH FROM THE FREEZER, IF IT HAS STARTED TO MELT AND IS WET THE TRICK WILL NOT WORK!*
- *Two sections of four-foot black yarn.*
- *One four-foot section of red yarn.*
- *Saltshaker full of salt.*
- *Poster board behind the table for Master Sin to write the word “MASTER” one letter at a time. This poster board can be on an easel or taped to the wall.*
- *A thick black marker.*

Mr. King: This is the story of two brothers, the first two sons of Adam and Eve. With us today we have one of those brothers, Cain, the oldest brother. But we don’t have his younger brother, Abel.

Cain: Well, don’t ask me where he is. Am I my brother’s keeper?

Mr. King: Maybe we’ll find the answer to that.

We do have a shadowy character. This character (*pointing to Master Sin*) represents sin and how sin wants to be a master over us. So we will call him Master Sin.

Cain: Oh, phooey. There’s nothing to that.

Mr. King: Well, let’s see. Genesis 4. Adam and Eve had two children. Their first child they named Cain.

Cain: Yep, that’s me.

Mr. King: Cain was a farmer.

Cain: Yee-haw!

Mr. King: Their other son they named Abel. Abel was a shepherd.

Cain: Who cares? Stinky ole sheep anyway!

Mr. King: Cain brought some crops to the Lord as an offering.

Cain: Well, I knew I was supposed to give something to God so I had some leftover corn and oats and barley that—well—I thought would do just fine. After all, I knew I should give God something.

Mr. King: Abel also brought a sacrifice to God, but he took the firstborn of his animals and the choicest part of the meat for his offering. He gave God his very best.

At this time, Master Sin writes the letter “M” on the poster board and begins to tie one end of the black yarn to Cain’s right wrist. He will soon be making a marionette puppet out of Cain. He does this as the dialogue continues. He operates directly behind Cain. The dialogue continues even while Master Sin does his actions.

Cain: Well, how did I know God wanted my best stuff? And why should he have it anyway?

Mr. King: The Lord approved of Abel and his offering, but he did not approve of Cain and his offering. So Cain became very angry and disappointed.

Master Sin writes the letter “A” and grabs the yarn holding Cain’s arm. He guides Cain’s arm as a puppeteer so his hand is placed on the ice block.

Cain: Wow! This is cold! But it’s just like how I feel inside when my brother Abel gets all the credit from God and I don’t get any. Why does God have to like his offering better than mine?

Mr. King: Then the Lord asked Cain, “Why are you angry, and why do you look disappointed? If you do well, won’t you be accepted? But if you don’t do well, sin is lying outside your door ready to attack. It wants to control you, but you must master it.”

Master Sin ties the other black string on Cain’s left wrist.

Cain: Well, I’m not worried about any sin trying to be my master. I can’t believe that sin could control me. I’ll just do what I want anyway.

Mr. King: Then Cain talked to his brother, Abel. He talked him into going to the field. Later when they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother and killed him.

Master Sin writes the letter “S” and with the string, moves Cain’s other hand onto the ice.

Cain: Boy, was my brother stupid! I suggested that we go to the field and he came right along without questioning a bit. I looked at him and I was sick and tired of seeing his face. I felt cold and hard towards him inside. It was kind of like this ice. Boy, it’s hurting my hands! *(Removes his hands from the ice.)*

But all I could think about was getting rid of Abel. So when my stupid younger brother turned around—ka-pow! It was quick and easy. No more brother, no more problems.

Mr. King: Then the Lord asked Cain, “Where is your brother, Abel?” Cain answered, “I don’t know.”

Master Sin writes the letter “T.” He also grabs the yarn holding Cain’s hands and controls them by placing them on the ice again.

Cain: Well, maybe it was just a little lie. I mean I wasn’t for sure where he was. Maybe someone moved his body after I left. I don’t know.

Mr. King: Then Cain answered back to God, “Am I supposed to take care of my brother?”

Master Sin writes the letter “E.”

Cain: Well...Am I in charge of my brother? *(Lifts his hands off the ice again.)* I’m not my brother’s keeper. Someone else should take responsibility for him.

Mr. King: Not only did Cain lie about knowing what happened to Abel, he also didn’t care. The answer to Cain’s question, “Am I supposed to take care of my brother?” is “Yes, of course you’re supposed to take care of your brother!”

So the Lord asked, “What have you done? Your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the ground, which has received the blood of your brother whom you killed. When you farm the ground, it will no longer yield its best for you. You will be a fugitive, a wanderer on the earth.”

Cain: Oh, it’s not fair! My punishment is more than I can stand! Poor me. Why do I have it so bad? Now I’ll just have to wander around the land.

Master Sin writes the letter “R.” He puppets Cain’s hands to the ice.

Cain: I feel so cold and hard inside. I'm worried. What will happen to me? What if someone finds me when I'm wandering around and wants to take revenge on me and kill me because I killed my brother?

Mr. King: The Lord said, "No one should take revenge on Cain and kill him." The Lord put a mark on Cain that told anyone meeting him not to kill him. Then Cain left the Lord's presence and wandered in the land east of Eden.

Master Sin uses the puppet strings to show he has controlled Cain and that Cain's hands are on the ice cube.

Mr. King: So you see, boys and girls, Cain did let sin become his master. Sin controlled him. Cain murdered his brother, and God said the blood of his brother that was spilled on the ground called out to him for justice. Cain's brother was a good man and had done nothing wrong against Cain. Yet, Cain killed him. So we say this was innocent blood that touched the ground and called out to God for justice.

Boys and girls, do we have problems in our families today? Yes. Why is that? Because we have sin in our families too. Sometimes sin can control us. Sin is like this big ice cube here. It's cold and hard if you hold it, and it can make our hearts become cold and hard toward other people. When sin becomes our master, we become like it—cold and hard.

But God passed the promise to us that helps us not let sin be a master over us. You see God sent someone to this world that was a perfect man. It was God's own Son. He was innocent but he, too, was killed. *(While talking, he puts the red yarn on the ground.)* His blood hit the ground and called out to God, "Forgive them and take their sin away!" So this is what happened. *(Carries the red yarn to the block of ice. He sprinkles salt on the surface of the ice and then lays six inches of yarn on it. As he sprinkles more salt, the yarn will quickly freeze to the ice. He will be able to lift the "sin" with the yarn. This demonstrates Jesus' blood lifting our sin. You could even quickly tie one end of the red yarn to the "Pass the Promise" football to demonstrate how this promise is passed through the Old Testament.)*

When Jesus gave his life for us on the cross and poured out his blood, it has the power to lift any of our sin from us so sin will not be our master. Since God forgives us of our sin, sin is no longer our master. So take that, Master Sin!

(Mr. King rips the poster board in half and Master Sin exits quickly along with Cain. Continue with puppet presentation conclusion.)

“Gordy and the Cookie Jar”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: *(Enters.)* Wow! That was cool, Mr. King! You just lifted that ice—I mean, sin—right off the table.

Mr. King: **That’s what the power of Jesus’ blood does for us. If we trust Jesus as our Savior...**

Gordy: I do!

Mr. King: **I know you do. We say, “I want to follow you, God.”**

Gordy: Yeah, I want to follow God.

Mr. King: **We say, “We **don’t want sin to be our master—we want to follow God!*”**

Gordy: Even if it means not karate chopping my sister?

Mr. King: **Especially that.**

Gordy: Oh, I guess so. Besides, I’d probably get in even more trouble!

Mr. King: **You sure would. Sin always gets us in trouble—even if we don’t get caught.**

Gordy: And even if we don’t get cookies.

Mr. King: **Right, Gordy. Let’s pray.**

Gordy: I’ll pray!

Mr. King: **Okay.**

Gordy: Dear God, I’ve done some wrong things. But I don’t want sin to be my master. I don’t want to end up like Cain, who killed Abel. (But I never really would kill my sister. Maybe a karate chop or two.) I trust Jesus. Please forgive me. I want to follow you and do what you want. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Mr. King: **Gordy, that’s fantastic. Let’s all go back to our groups. Maybe we can even practice that special trick of lifting the ice cube with the yarn.**