



Leader Guide

Cain and Abel

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Story of God- Leader Info

Big Idea:

Cain let his sinful nature control him and kills Abel because God accepted Abel's offering and not his.

Scripture:

Genesis 4

Memory Verse:

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.

Genesis 4:7

Kids' City is changing up the lessons a little bit! We are starting on a journey together to understand the Story of God, and grow closer to Him and know Him better along the way! The lessons each week will now be chronological stories from the Bible told to the kids orally in a Story-formed way.

Stories are the most powerful form of communication we have. Stories speak to the mind, the body, and the emotions —our spirits. In a story, we can identify with situations we have never been in. Every culture and society of people that have ever existed has been this way. We are all storytellers and we all LOVE stories.

Jesus was a GREAT storyteller!

The disciples came up and asked, "Why do you tell stories?" Jesus replied, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn't been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understanding flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That's why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight."

Matthew 13:10-13 (The Message)

Goals of Telling the Story

-To understand, experience, and intersect with God's story.

-To become a 'story-formed' kids and people whose lives are daily shaped by the truths of the Story.

-To make disciples of Jesus who make disciples.

-To see and experience God's "Redemptive Arc" throughout history as found in the Bible—seeing the connection between all of the stories— and seeing the Bible as one big story.

-To be moved by a Story that points to a God who constantly pursues us and desires to know us.

-To see the intersection of ours' and the kids' stories with God's Story.

-To understand our identity differently in light of God's story, who he is, and who he created us to be.

-To "live in the gospel", seeing the world differently, seeking to further God's Kingdom - to live missionally.

-To become excited about the biblical narratives, reading and learning more about them in the Bible.

-To learn to retell these stories and help others to see how they can find themselves in God's story.

Introduction in Small Groups

Intro

Questions for the Kids about their week and to get them thinking about the lesson they will be going over.

1. What happened this past week that was really awesome?
2. What happened this past week that was a bummer?
3. What are you going to be for Halloween?
4. What is your favorite Halloween candy?
5. Have you ever been really jealous of your brothers or sisters?

Expected Behaviors

Go over the Expected Behaviors for the kids while they are in small group before Large Group begins.

1. Be respectful of others
2. Only one student speaks at a time
3. Listen quietly when others are speaking
4. Keep hands and feet to yourself
5. Follow the directions given by your leaders

Large Group

Game

Have the children play an ultimate game of Rock, Paper, Scissors where the winner of the previous round continues to play with the other winners and the losers have to sit down. Play a couple of rounds to get the energy out of some of the kids.

Prayer, Offering, and Communion

Pray for the kids as they begin a new lesson, and ask the kids if they have anything specifically they would like to pray about! Pray for their requests during the week. Collect the offering if the kids have any, after the prayer. For the kids that have been baptized they can take communion at this time. Explain to the children that communion is a time for us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross and thank Him for all He has done for us!

Retell the Story from Last Week

Guide the children through the last story, Separation. You will probably need to ask a few guiding questions such as...

When we last heard about Adam and Eve, what had happened?

Because Adam and Eve did not follow God's ways, they were now going to get sick, feel pain, and eventually die.

God removed Adam and Eve from the garden and put powerful angels outside of the entrance to the garden. A flaming sword flashed back and forth, guarding the way to the Tree of Life.

Humans could not eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.

What do you think will happen next now that Adam and Eve are outside the garden?

I'm going to tell you a story now about their two sons...

Tell the Story (Don't just read it—know it and bring it to life!)

After leaving the garden, Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel. When they grew up, Cain became a farmer, and Abel became a shepherd, looking after sheep

At harvest time, Cain brought to God a gift from what his farm produced, while Abel brought several of the very best lambs from his flock.

God accepted Abel and his offering of the lambs, but he did not accept Cain and his offering.

This made Cain very angry and upset.

"Why are you so angry?" God asked Cain. "Why do you look so discouraged? You'll be accepted if you do what's right. But if you refuse to do what's right, then watch out! Sin is crouching like a lion at your door, waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must bring it under control."

Later, Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, "Let's go out into the fields..."

And while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother. This was the first murder described in the Bible.

Afterward, God asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know!" Cain replied. "Am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?"

But God said, "What have you done? Listen... your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! You have to leave this place and the ground you have dirtied by making your brother bleed here. Now it will not produce great crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be homeless, on the run, constantly wandering from place to place."

Cain replied to God, "My punishment is more than I can handle!

You have removed me from my land... and from your presence; you have made me a wanderer, on the run. All who see me will try to kill me!"

God replied, "No! They will not kill you. Anyone who tries to hurt you will receive seven times your punishment."

So God put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him that they would be in trouble if they hurt him. Then Cain left God's presence and traveled to the land east of the Garden.

Small Groups

Retell the Story

This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping your kids remember and own the story. You will want to help them retell the story by giving them leading questions like: So, where did the story begin? What

happened next? Whose offering did God accept? Who got mad and killed his brother? What did God do to say to him then? Who had to leave God's presence?

Dialogue

Remember **this is a dialogue, not a quiz**. The questions are a good start to draw out observations about the story, and the “answers” are just there to help you guide kids toward some key ideas.

1. Why did Cain kill his brother?

He was upset that God accepted his brother's offering and not his.

2. Why did Cain have to leave?

He had dirtied the ground with his brother's blood—he had killed his brother.

God will never allow evil to stay around him.

3. Did Cain's sin destroy him like God said it would?

Yes, he had to go away from God, lose the chance to be in God's presence.

4. How is Cain like his parents, Adam and Eve?

He decided to do things his way instead of trust God.

He ended life—his brother's. His parents ended their chance at eternal life with God.

5. How did God show his love for Cain in the story?

He told Cain to get his sin under control—gave him a warning.

He gave Cain a mark so that no one would kill him, even though he had killed his brother. He told Cain that anyone who tried to hurt him would receive seven times his punishment.

6. What do we learn about God in this story? (When your kids answer, ask them: Where in the story did you see this?)

God is powerful.

God knows all things. Nothing that we do is hidden from him.

God is perfect, good, and right—he is holy.

God gives us chances, but he cannot be around sin.

God is loving—he protected Cain from being hurt.

Application (Optional questions that may help apply the story)

7. What do you like best about the story and why?

8. What questions do you have about the story?

9. Have you ever been really upset with your brother/sister/friend? What did you do about it?

10. How are we like Cain?

11. How can we bring ourselves “under control” when we are feeling really angry?

Activity

Have the children work on the Cain and Abel Word Puzzle.

Extra Time Activities

If there is extra time, have the kids look up the passages from the story and read them out loud.