

To Study: Genesis 4:1-17, 25-26.

To Read in class: Genesis 4:1-17

Memory Texts:

Younger: Hebrews 11:4 “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.”

Older: Hebrews 11:4 “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”

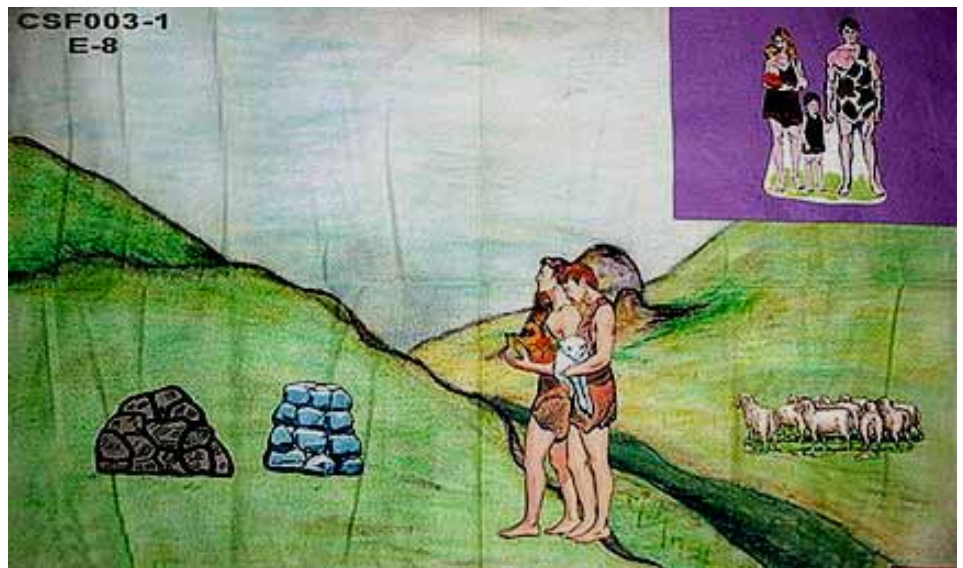
OBJECTIVES: To teach that

1. In the heart of every human being God has placed the need to draw near to Him.
2. The way to draw near unto God was established by Him; nothing has been left to man’s election.
3. Cain and Abel responded to what God expected, but each used a different criteria.
4. Each person is identified with the offering he uses to approach God, but God’s response to what is offered determines whether the person is accepted or rejected.
5. Christ is the only offering for sin that is acceptable to draw near to God today.

SCENE No. 1. VISUAL AIDS: Figures of Cain and Abel walking toward separate altars, each one carrying his offering. Cain carries produce from the earth, while Abel carries an animal. Inset: Figures of Adam and Eve with Cain and Abel when they were young.

DEVELOPMENT:

- Adam and Eve would have recounted to their sons some events of their past.
- Sug.** Ask the students what they think they would have told them.
- Cns.** Possible responses: Their early life in the Garden of Eden, the deceit of the serpent, the forbidden fruit and their decision to eat it. Also, they would tell of having made aprons, of God seeking them out, the death of the animal to provide clothing for them to continue to live on earth, and how they were expelled from the garden.



- Adam and Eve were responsible to teach their children what God required of each one individually.
- Cain and Abel understood that sin had caused a separation or distance between God and His creatures.
- Cmt.** This point should be emphasized to show why Christian parents are especially interested in having their children present at the meetings of the local church. It is so they might learn Bible truths.
- Cmt.** The same point can applied to children from unsaved homes. Their Sunday School teachers try to interest them in spiritual values so they might know what God requires in order for them to be saved.
- Cain and Abel learned that sin brings death, and that only on the basis of a sacrifice which “loses” its life can a person present him/herself before God in order to be pardoned.
- Once Cain and Abel reached an age of being accountable to God, they had a desire and a need to draw near to Him.
- Cain, a farmer, took “**of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD**” (Genesis 4:3).
- Abel, on the other hand, “**by faith offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain**” (Hebrews 11:4). He chose the best from the firstborn of his flocks.

CAIN AND ABEL

- Abel recognized the greatness of God and brought an offering consistent with God's excellence.
- It is possible that Cain was proud or stubborn and did not want to obtain an animal from his brother for the offering.
- The desire of the two brothers to draw near to God is a reflection of the human heart today and its desire to have contact or fellowship with its Creator.

Cmt. Man has turned to many other means to satisfy his spiritual longing, but since they are all outside of Christ the Saviour, they do not find acceptance before God.

Sug. Ask the students, "What do you think is the way to draw near unto God?"

Cmt. God's way of salvation is through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus on the cross, and this lesson emphasizes this point.

- On account of sin, man has lost the privilege of having fellowship with God and entering into His presence.
- Although both of them knew what God required, Abel obeyed, but Cain chose to disobey.
- Abel obeyed because he had faith, that is, he acted according to what God required.
- Motivated by his own ideas, Cain decided what **HE** would present to God.

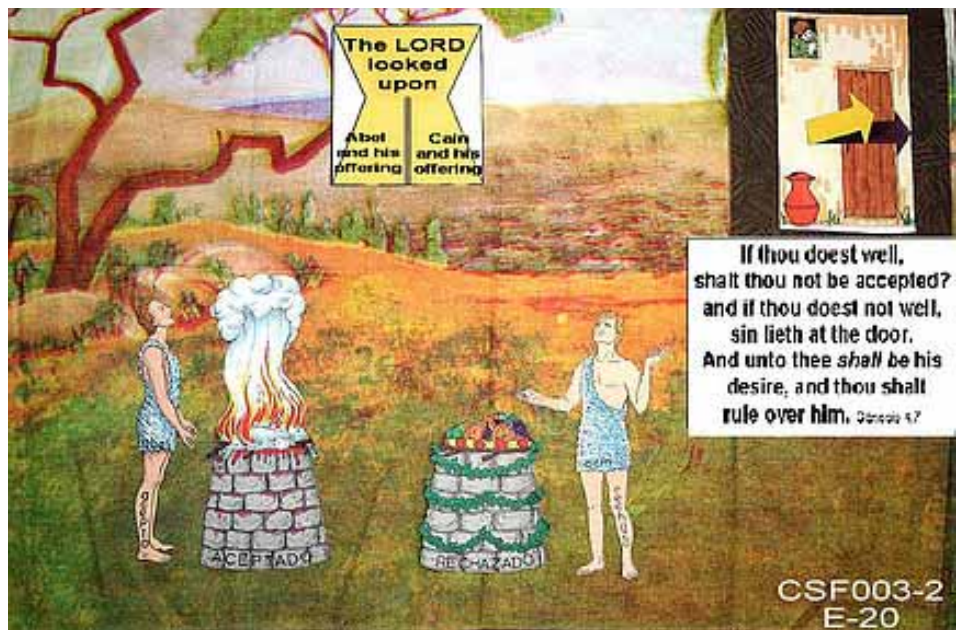
SCENE No. 2. VISUAL AIDS: Figure of Abel standing before his altar, seeing the offering consumed by fire. Figure of Cain before his altar but with the produce of the land still intact, for God has not responded by fire. A sign that quotes part of Genesis 4:4 -5. "And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering. ... But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect." Inset: God's words to Cain to have him change his attitude in order to offer an acceptable sacrifice.

DEVELOPMENT:

- Abel approached God with the kind of offering required by Him, and God responded sending fire from heaven to consume the offering.

Cmt. In certain passages of the Old Testament, it is seen that God responded with fire, something similar to a flash of lightning which set fire to the wood and consumed the sacrifice.

- On seeing his offering being burned, Abel knew that he had been accepted by God, for a person was identified with what was offered.



- Since Cain did not receive a reply from heaven, he understood that his sacrifice had not been accepted.
 - If the sacrifice was rejected, so was the person who offered.
 - Cain insisted on his own system of drawing nigh to God and it did not bring the desired result.
- Sug.** Ask the students what Cain's face would be like. What is reflected on the face reveals what is in the heart. There was probably consternation, a scowl, anger, frustration, etc.
- The jealousy Cain felt towards his brother was the product of his own disobedience.
 - Cain wanted to show his anger, and since God was not at hand, he planned to eliminate the one who had been approved by God.

SCENE No. 3: In a field, figures showing Cain and Abel talking to each other. Cain's face shows displeasure while Abel's face shows satisfaction. Figures are changed to show Cain hearing the words of Jehovah asking about his brother. Figure of a mound of rock or earth covering the body of Abel. In an upper corner, Cain looking through a window towards the outside of a house, for God had spoken of "sin at the door."

LESSON DEVELOPMENT:

- With the intention of murdering his brother already in his heart, Cain invited Abel to go out into the field.
- Being a farmer, Cain would have had the implements with which to dig a hole and hide the corpse.

Cmt. Anger is latent in the human heart and seeks an opportunity to inflict damage. Anger is a very strong emotion and sometimes is expressed through verbal, psychological or physical abuse.

Cns. When someone is angry and cannot attack God directly, the individual will instead harm that which has to do with Him. This is sometimes the cause of persecution suffered by Christians.

Cmt. In a less violent way, there are people who become "angry" with God and His people. These show their feelings by not reading the Bible or not taking time to read a tract. Sometimes it is shown by not attending meetings for the study of Scripture.

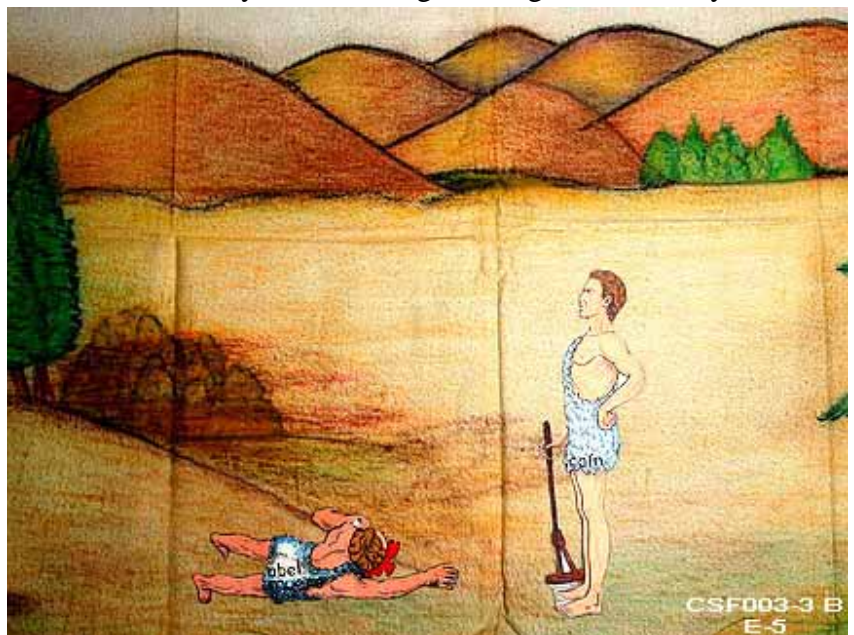
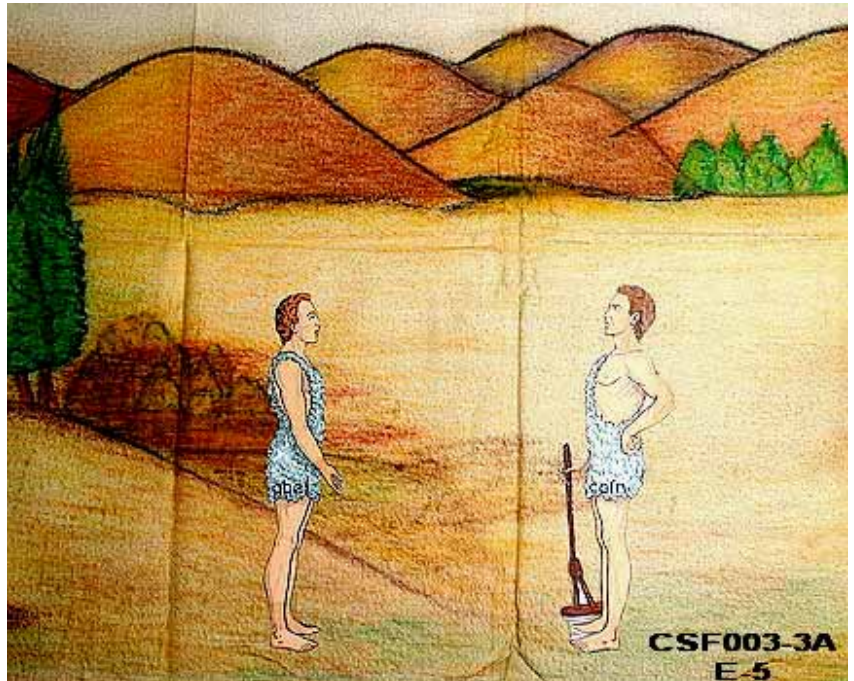
Lsn. When sin is present in the heart, it causes a person to commit shameful deeds.

Exm. Fighting among brothers and sisters and friends is sin, even when it does not go as far as murder. Anger, envy, disobedience etc. lead to the same sad end. One can "murder" the reputation of another with words. See Matthew 5:22.

- Once the murder is committed, there is no way that Cain can restore life to his brother.

Lsn. There is no way anyone can undo the damage that was caused by his sin.

- Cain did not want his parents and other family members to know of his sin, so he tried to hide the evidence.



CAIN AND ABEL

SFC003

Page 4 of 4

Cmt. Whenever someone commits evil, all kinds of excuses are given in an attempt to cover up what was done.

- Since nothing escapes the eye of God, Cain had to answer to Him for his sin.

Apl. The consequences must be faced, and only when the price is paid for the sin committed can pardon be granted. This teaches the need for salvation which can only be obtained through the Saviour.

Cmt. Those who do not accept the sacrifice of Christ to be saved will have to stand before the Great White Throne to answer for what he/she has done.

- Cain rejected the opportunity that God offered him of changing his attitude and bringing an acceptable offering.

- There was still time to recognize his sin and come to God with a substitute, an animal that would die instead of him.

- Cain chose instead to continue independent of God, following his own ideas.

- He never acknowledged the goodness and mercy of God, and he continued to live far from Him.

- Cain's children succeeded in life in many ways (Genesis 4:20-22), but they gave in to violence and sin, both of which began to increase greatly (Genesis 4:23-24).

