

Table of Contents – Lesson 4

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Review.....	3
3.	Cain and Abel Born.....	4
4.	Cain and Abel Present their Offerings	6
5.	Cain Murdered Abel	8
6.	God Judged Cain	9
7.	Seth, a Godly Man	11
8.	Adam Died.....	12
9.	After the Meeting.....	16
10.	Review of the Lesson’s Themes.....	18
11.	Students Practice telling the Bible Stories.....	19
12.	Teaching Tips for Teachers	20
13.	To the Honorable Teacher.....	22

1. Introduction

After Adam and Eve sinned, God expelled them from the Garden of Eden. Now they were living outside of the ideal place which God had prepared for them. God placed a cherubim and the flaming sword at the entrance to the Garden of Eden to prevent anyone from entering it.

This lesson teaches the early history of mankind, now inherently sinful, living outside of the Garden of Eden. It teaches how God continued to interact with fallen mankind and make himself known to them. Adam and Eve gave birth to children whose inherent nature and character was sinful like theirs.

The story of Cain and Abel shows two ways of handling their sinfulness. Abel had faith in God and worshiped God accordingly. Cain did not believe in God or truly worship him.

This lesson teaches that God is holy and demands death for sin's payment. Emphasize that a person can only come to God in God's way. Otherwise God will reject the person.

Man is a helpless sinner; he cannot save himself. Man can only come to God by God's way. But what does God require of a person in order to be saved? It is necessary for people to have faith in God in order to be forgiven of their sins.

God is holy and righteous. He demands death for sin's payment. God communicates with man so that we might know him and be saved from sin's penalty.

Satan, the enemy of God, continually works against God's purposes. Though Satan is crafty and intelligent, it is impossible for him to overcome God.

Remember to emphasize that God is supreme, he is sovereign. God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. These attributes belong to him. He does not share them with his creation.

God is loving, merciful, and gracious. That means he loves people and he shows mercy and grace to them. No one deserves God's mercy and grace. He simply is merciful and gracious to people because he wants them to be reconciled to him.

Bible Lesson 4 (BTJ)

1. Review

Setting: Twila and Teacher were talking about the Bible stories.

Twila: Teacher, the Story you are teaching us is very good and we are learning so much. Sometimes it is hard to remember everything so we can discuss the teaching among ourselves. We do not want to forget any of it.

Teacher: That is good. I am glad that you are discussing the teaching among yourselves. God wants you to know and believe the Bible's teaching. I'm glad you are trying hard to learn all of it.

Twila: The last time you taught us, we learned why life is so hard for us. We learned that God placed a curse on the ground because Adam and Eve sinned against him. Now we know why we have to weed our gardens all the time year after year. Now we know why producing enough food for us is hard work that never ends. If Adam and Eve had just obeyed God then life would be different, wouldn't it?

Teacher: You are right. If Adam and Eve had obeyed God, then life would be good for us as it was for them before they sinned. God cursed the ground because Adam and Eve obeyed Satan instead of obeying him. It was wrong for them to choose to obey Satan. It is wrong today for people to choose to sin.

Twila: Teacher, when I heard that God promised a Deliverer I was excited. I thought, Yes, God cursed the serpent and he cursed the ground. He said childbirth would be hard for the women and it is. But, God also promised a Deliverer who would have the final victory over Satan. I want to know more about the Deliverer. I do not like this sin which covers me and weighs me down.

Teacher: You will hear more about God's promised Deliverer. There is a lot that I have to teach you. Please continue to come to the meetings so that you can learn more about God's work in history. It's a wonderful story and God wants you to understand it.

Twila: We act just like Adam and Eve did when they sinned. They tried to make themselves look good by putting on a fig-leaf covering but God knew all about their sin.

Teacher: Do you think God knows when you sin?

Twila: God knows when we sin. We can't fool him. When we sin we act like nothing happened and if no one finds out, we think we got away with it, that we have fooled people. But, now I know that God is not fooled by our deceitful actions. He knows all about them.

Teacher: What did God do for Adam and Eve? How did he help them?

Twila: God covered Adam and Eve with a coat he made from animal skins. God was merciful to them. He bestowed his favor upon them because he is good and he loved them. Adam and Eve did not make God do this. No, they were sinners doomed for death so God intervened on their behalf.

Teacher: Did God allow Adam and Eve to stay in the Garden of Eden after they sinned?

Twila: No, God drove them out of the beautiful Garden of Eden which he had prepared for them. They could not return to it again because God placed an angel there with a flaming sword to make sure they would not go back into the Garden of Eden.

Teacher: That's right. Now that Adam and Eve were sinners, God did not want them to eat fruit from the tree of life and live forever. So God drove them out of Eden and they never returned to that beautiful garden again.

2. Cain and Abel Born

Listen to this story about Adam and Eve living outside of the Garden of Eden.

God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden because they obeyed Satan's lie and sinned against God by eating the forbidden fruit. Before they sinned, God and Adam and Eve were always happy with each other. God was their friend. After they sinned, they were afraid of God and tried to hide from him.

God drove them out of the Garden of Eden. Now they had to live outside the Garden of Eden. They could never return to it. Outside of the Garden of Eden they had to work hard to have enough food to eat. Do you think that sometimes they had problems with each other? Yes, they probably did because as sinners we make mistakes and cause problems for ourselves and others.

Then Eve became pregnant and gave birth to a baby boy named Cain. He was the first person to be born in the history of mankind. When Eve gave birth to Cain she said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." Adam and Eve were happy to have a

baby boy and took good care of him. They loved him just like we love our children. Now there were three people living on the earth.

Where do you think Cain was born? Was he born in the Garden of Eden? No, he was not born inside the Garden of Eden. He was born outside of the Garden of Eden. If Adam and Eve had not sinned, Cain would have been born within the beautiful Garden of Eden.

Later Eve gave birth to another boy whom they named Abel. Now there were four people living on the earth outside of the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve took care of their boys and they grew up to be young men outside of the Garden of Eden.

What kind of people were Cain and Abel? Do you think they were born good and that they would never sin? Did they have the same relationship with God as Adam and Eve had before they sinned and ate the forbidden fruit? Do you think Adam and Eve gave birth to children who were perfect or would they be sinners like them? When Adam and Eve had children, they were the same kind of people as their parents were.

Let's think about the time when God made all the living things. At that time God made living things to reproduce after their kind. He made birds so that they would hatch out little birdies, not baby lions. An eagle would hatch out eaglets. An eagle would never give birth to puppies or a bear. Sheep were created to give birth to lambs, not calves or puppies. Everything was created to give birth after its kind. Pigs give birth to piglets that grow up to be mature pigs which gave birth to little piglets. A dog gives birth to puppies every time. A dog does not give birth to kitties or another kind of animal. God created living things to give birth according to its kind. That's the way God made things to be.

Adam and Eve had to work hard outside of the Garden of Eden. They had to work for their food, to make a place to live in, to make their clothes and to raise their boys. They had to teach them how to play together, to work and to live. No doubt Adam and Eve told Cain and Abel about the beautiful Garden of Eden that God had planted for them. As they taught them, Cain and Abel learned how wicked Satan tricked their parents into obeying his lies. Adam and Eve did not want their boys to obey Satan's lies. They wanted them to only worship and obey God.

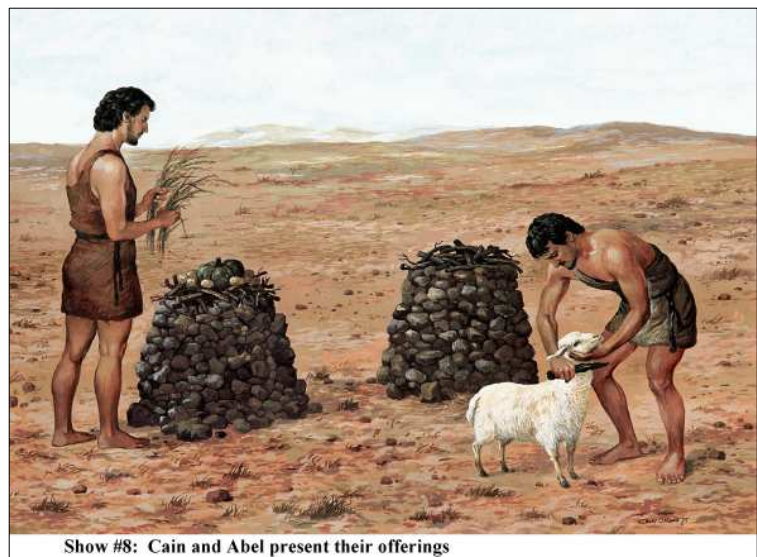
Cain and Abel grew older and they learned how to work, to plant things and to take care of flocks of sheep. Cain liked to work in the ground. He like to plant vegetables and grow good food to eat. Abel took care of the flocks, probably sheep, goats and cattle. These two occupations were good jobs for Cain and Abel as they too lived outside of the Garden of Eden.

3. Cain and Abel Present their Offerings

As Cain and Abel grew older, no doubt their parents, Adam and Eve, taught them about God. What would they have taught Cain and Abel about God? They probably taught them about having been created by God and placed in the Garden of Eden. And, they most likely told them about their first sin against God and how God judged them for disobeying his command to not eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve likely told them that it is important to obey God always. Otherwise, they would experience consequences for sinning. God does not let sin go unpunished.

When God created Adam and Eve, he created them with a conscience that would remind them to obey God. After they became sinners, their consciences still reminded them to obey God. As Cain and Abel grew up their consciences also told them what was right from wrong. If they wanted to do something bad, they were warned by their conscience not to do the sinful act. Do you think Cain and Abel always did the right thing? Do you think they sinned at times?

Cain and Abel were people just like we are so they did bad things, they sinned against God. Their conscience told them that they did not do the right things. Cain and Abel knew that they did not always obey God. Do you think if Cain and Abel decided to stop sinning that they would be able to do so? Cain and Abel were powerless to overcome the urge to sin. They were helpless sinners without a way to make themselves good before God. Their guilt was with them all the time. There was nothing they could do to remove their sin nature and the guilt they bore from sinning against God.



Cain and Abel knew that they needed God's help to be saved from the penalty of sin which is death. One day they brought their offerings to the Lord. Cain brought some of the things he grew in the ground as his offering to the Lord. Abel killed a firstborn animal from his flock, cut it up and brought its fat portions as an offering to the Lord.

When an offering like this was brought to the Lord, it was placed upon a pile of stones and burned. Good animals were slain and cut into pieces for the offering. These animals did no wrong or sin against God. They were used to show God that the person bringing the offering knew he deserved to die because he was a sinner. The person bringing the offering desired God to forgive him of his sinfulness. The animal's death and shed blood served as a substitute and a covering for the one offering the animal. The innocent animal died and its blood was shed as a substitute and covering for the person who deserved to die. The one bringing the offering agreed with God that he was a sinner and deserved to die because the payment for sin is death. However the person who brought the offering did not die, he lived because the substitute took his place. Sheep, goats and cattle were used for these offerings.

Do you think God was happy with the offerings of Cain and Abel? Listen carefully to what happened next. God saw all that Cain and Abel did. He looked with favor on Abel's offering. That means God accepted it because Abel's heart was right toward God. Abel knew that if God did not show mercy to him that he would die separated from God. Abel killed the firstborn from his flock to show God that he agreed with God that he deserved to die because he was a sinner. God saw everything that Abel did and he knew that Abel believed in him. In Abel's heart he believed that only God could save him from the penalty of sin which is eternal death. God accepted Abel's offering because Abel believed in him.

What about Cain's offering? Do you think God accepted Cain's offering of vegetables or grain from the ground? No, God did not accept Cain's offering. Cain did not truly believe that he was a helpless sinner so he just brought an offering that grew from the ground. Cain's offering was something that he did to make himself look good before God. Cain wanted God to think well of his action, to see his action as a good work that would make God forgive him of his sinfulness. That was not a good thing to do because God does not approve of people doing things to try to make him accept them. God did not look with favor on Cain's offering. God rejected Cain's offering because Cain did not have true faith in God. Cain came to God in his own way but God did not accept it just as he did not accept the fig-leaf covering that Adam and Eve had made.

What happened next? Do you think Cain changed his thinking about himself and admitted that he was a helpless sinner before almighty, holy God? Listen carefully to what happened next. God wants you to be like Abel, not Cain. When Cain saw that God did not accept his offering he became angry. When a person is angry, does his face look happy? No, his face is downcast. It looks dark and mean. Cain behaved badly toward God. He should have asked God for mercy and help but he didn't. Cain's sinful nature mastered him and he acted as though Satan controlled him.

God saw that Cain was angry and he asked him, “Cain, why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?” God wanted Cain to change his thinking and not be angry. God wanted Cain to admit that he was a sinner. God wanted Cain to believe in him and come to him the right way. What did God do next? Listen carefully so that you will understand how God wanted to help Cain overcome his sin and rebellion against him. God said, “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.” God did not want Cain to be a wicked person. God wanted Cain to humble himself and admit that he was a sinner. God wanted Cain to believe in him just like Abel did. This shows us that God is merciful and gracious toward sinners. He expects sinners to respond in a right way to him, to submit to him and come to him in faith.

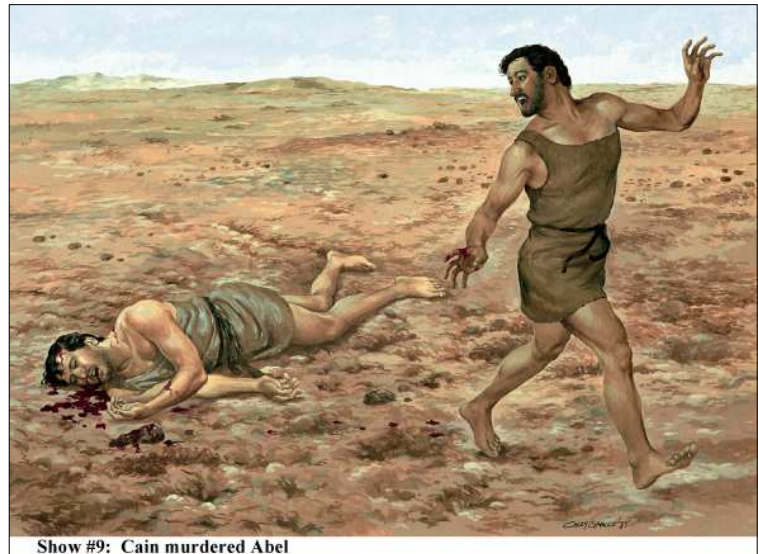
Let’s think about this. When we are angry, do we want to admit that we are wrong? No, we do not like to admit that we did something wrong. Our pride makes us try to find a way to make ourselves look good, to look right. Sometimes when we are angry, we say things or think thoughts that are really wicked. Why do we do that? We do that because we are sinners. That is why Cain got angry when God rejected his offering. He did not like it that God did not accept his way of bringing an offering to him. Cain wanted God to give in and accept the offering he brought in his own way. Cain’s rebellion against God was very bad. What will happen next?

4. Cain Murdered Abel

Cain was still angry because God did not accept his offering. Whose fault was it that God rejected his offering? It was Cain’s fault but he stubbornly refused to admit it. “I’m not wrong”, Cain thought. Within Cain there was a battle going on. He knew that he should listen to God. But, he was still angry with God for having accepted his younger brother Abel’s offering while rejecting his. What do you think will happen? What will Cain do next? When you are angry and good ways are fighting against bad ways within you, which do you choose to follow? Do you follow the good way or the bad way?

Listen to what happened next. Cain was still angry and said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” Cain and Abel went out to the field but Abel did not know how angry Cain was about God having rejected his offering. While Cain and Abel were in the field, Cain attacked his younger brother Abel and killed him. Now Abel was dead. No more could Abel live with his parents, Adam and Eve. No longer could Cain and Abel be together as brothers. Now death came to humanity. Though Abel’s body lay on the ground, his spirit was gone. He was dead. Cain had murdered him.

God saw everything that Cain did. Do you remember how God had warned Cain? God had warned Cain and said, “Cain, if you do what is right, you will be accepted. But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door and it will get you. Sin desires to rule over you, but you must not give in to sin.” God had warned Cain because he wanted Cain to turn away from his evil actions. God does not want sin to rule people. God wants all people to obey him all the time.



Show #9: Cain murdered Abel

5. God Judged Cain

After Cain murdered Abel, God asked him, “Where is your brother Abel?” Why did God ask Cain where Abel was. Didn’t God know what had happened to Abel? God knew that Cain had killed Abel. Remember, God is everywhere present and he knows everything. God asked Cain about Abel because he wanted Cain to admit that he had sinned and murdered his brother Abel. But Cain replied to God, “I don’t know where he is. Am I my brother’s guardian?”

Cain lied to God. He knew that he had killed Abel. Cain sinned when he got angry at God. He sinned when he killed Abel. And he sinned again when he lied to God. That is the way it is when we choose to allow sin to rule our lives. If we yield to Satan’s lies and evil temptations we will be as wicked as Cain was. God wants us to think about how sinful Cain was. He wants us to not choose wickedness like Cain did. God wants us to believe in him.

If you choose to believe this teaching, you are making a right choice like Abel did. Abel believed in God and showed his faith in God by the sacrifice he brought. But, if you do not believe the Bible’s teachings, you are acting sinfully like Cain did. Cain came to God in his own way and God rejected it. Which way will you choose? God’s way or your own? Whose example will you follow? Abel’s good example or Cain’s evil one?

God knew that Cain had killed Abel. He said to Cain, “What have you done? Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! Now you are cursed from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood which you have shed. If you work the land, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

Why do you think God said that he would punish Cain so severely? Think about what happened when Cain killed Abel. Cain did not show regard for God so he killed Abel whom God had made. Every person belongs to God. He is the one who gives people life. He alone is allowed to end a person’s life. Cain was foolish to think he could kill Abel and get away with it. He was stubborn, rebellious and only followed his own ways.

Please do not live like Cain. God does not want you to live wickedly like Cain did. God wants you to believe in him and the Bible stories that you are hearing. He wants you to believe in him so that he will help you with your sin problem.

Cain heard God’s pronouncement of punishment upon him. Do you think he turned from his stubbornness and asked God for mercy? Listen carefully to Cain’s reply to God. He said, “My punishment is too great to bear! Since you are banishing me today from the soil, and I must hide myself from your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me.”

God heard Cain’s answer and said, “In that case, whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.”

God placed a mark on Cain so that whenever Cain met people they would not kill him. God alone had the right to determine Cain’s life span. From there on, Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

God wants you to think about yourself. Are you like Abel who wanted to obey and worship God? Or are you like Cain who refused to obey God? Cain did not worship God. Cain wanted to live his life his own way regardless of what God had to say to him. Cain’s ways were not good and no one should act like him.

What kind of life did Cain have? Did it go well for Cain? Do you think that Cain had a good life? Cain left the area where he had lived and went to the land of Nod. There he lived with his wife and they had children. Do you think Cain taught his children to worship God? Do you think Cain offered acceptable sacrifices to God because he believed in God? Cain did not submit to God nor did he teach his children about God. Sadly, he lived his life his own way. God did not approve of Cain’s ways.

Today, many people want to live their lives their own way. Do you think God cares if people ignore him and do not believe in him? God wants all people, including all of you, to choose the right way and listen to his message for us. He wants you to believe in him as Abel did. He wants to help you with your sin problem and guiltiness. He wants to help you so that you can be free of the penalty of sin. But if you harden your heart like Cain did, you will die in your sins and be separated from God in the place of the never-ending fire of punishment.

What important lesson does the story of Cain and Ablel teach us? The story about Cain and Abel teaches us that there are two ways for us to respond to God. Either we believe God like Abel did or we reject God like Cain did. We cannot go two directions on a road at the same time. We can only travel in one direction at one time.

Cain did not believe in God. He did not trust in God. His actions show us that he walked away from God. He followed his own ways and disregarded God. Please do not be stubborn and rebellious like Cain was. Why? Because you will die in your sins if you continue to harden your heart against God like Cain did.

Abel believed in God and trusted God. Abel knew that his own ways were not right so he desired God to forgive him for being a sinner. When Abel desired to worship God it was as though he was walking toward God in order to please him and worship him. Abel knew that he needed God to save him from his sin's penalty. God showed mercy and forgiveness to Abel because he believed in him. God did not forgive Cain of his sinfulness because Cain had no regard for God in his heart. He lived for himself because he simply did not care about God.

Listen carefully to this important point. God wants all of you to be like Abel and to believe in him. God wants all of you to believe this teaching. That's why he sent me to teach you the Bible's message. He wants you to know him like Abel knew him.

If someone tries to dissuade you from listening to this teaching, do not follow that person's advice because he is misleading you. Do not allow your friends or anyone else to influence you to disregard this teaching. God wants you to believe in him just like Abel did. He wants to help you with your sin problem.

6. Seth, a Godly Man

After Cain had killed Abel, Adam and Eve had another son whom they named Seth. When Seth was born Eve said, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."

Adam and Eve remembered that God had promised that one of their descendants would be a Deliverer. They knew that Cain had murdered Abel and that he was an ungodly man who did not believe God or worship him. When Seth was born, they were glad to have another son whom they believed was given by God to replace Abel.

God had not forgotten his promise to Adam and Eve, had he? God is faithful and he always does what he has promised. God does not make empty promises. Seth was born so that through his lineage a Deliverer would come. God did not want people to live and die in sin so he promised to send a Deliverer to save people from the penalty of sin. What does that teach us about God? It teaches us that God is good and that he loves people. God wants you to listen to this Story so that you can learn more about him and have your sins forgiven.

Seth grew up and he was married. He had a son and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD. What did the people who called upon the name of the Lord do? They believed in God and they worshiped him. These men recognized and honored God. They knew that they needed to honor and worship him. They knew that it was wrong to ignore God and to live for themselves so they called upon him in prayer and worship.

Seth, his son Enosh, and others wanted to live lives that pleased God. They did not live just for themselves like Cain did. They knew that they were guilty sinners who needed God's mercy and grace. They cried out to God so that he would show mercy to them as he had to Abel. They recognized that only God could help them to live good lives so they called upon God to help them. They worshiped God because he alone was worthy of their worship.

What important lesson can we learn from the example of Seth, Enosh, and others? Their example is a good one to follow. Even though many people at that time did not worship God, Seth, Enosh and others turned away from wicked living and worshiped God. Their example shows us the right way to respond to God.

7. Adam Died

How long do you think Adam lived on this earth? Do you think he lived only sixty or seventy years? Listen carefully to the story about Adam and the time when he died.

God created Adam. He was the first man on the earth. God created Adam in his image and blew into his nose the breath of life and Adam became a living soul. God created Adam perfectly in every way. He thought good thoughts and did good actions. God loved

Adam and Adam loved God. Everything was good for Adam. God gave to him his wife Eve whom he made from one of his ribs. God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and provided for all of their needs.

Satan saw God's love for Adam and Eve and he wanted to ruin their good relationship. Satan hates God so he tempted Adam and Eve to sin. When they sinned against God, their perfect lives were over. Yes, they were still physically alive but they were no longer perfect and without sin. Now sin controlled their thinking and they had to die because death is the payment for sinning.

Cain and Abel, the first children to be born, were not born perfect and without sin like God had created their parents. No, they were born with a sinful nature which urged them to do bad things. No one had to teach them to misbehave. They sinned because they were sinners like their parents.

Later, Cain murdered his younger brother Abel. Why did Cain murder Abel? Who taught him to kill Abel? Cain killed Abel because he followed the sinful urge within himself and he gave in to Satan's temptation to sin. When Cain murdered Abel, he sinned against God. Satan was glad that Cain sinned against God because he hates God. Satan wants all people to live in sin and ignore God. He wants people to keep on sinning so that they will die in their sins. That way they will have to pay for their sins in the never-ending fire of punishment.

God, however, can not be overcome by Satan. No, he always does what he says he will do and there are no exceptions to that. God wanted a godly descendant of Adam and Eve to live so that through him he would send the promised Deliverer.

Since Adam had sinned against God, he could not live forever on the earth. Remember, the payment for sin is death. When Adam was one hundred and thirty years old, Seth was born. Seth was his son who was born in his own likeness, according to his image. After Seth was born, Adam continued to live for another eight hundred years and had other sons and daughters. Adam grew older and older but eventually he had to die because he disobeyed God in the beautiful Garden of Eden. He ate of the forbidden fruit which Eve gave him in the Garden of Eden. Adam lived a long time then died when he was 930 years old.

When Adam died, his body was buried in the ground from which God created him. What do you think? Was that the end of Adam? Did he cease to exist? No, it was not the end of Adam. Even though his body was lifeless, his spirit was still alive. It did not die. Adam believed in God so his spirit went to a good place where God is. Adam's spirit did not go

to the never-ending fire of punishment because he believed in God. Adam believed in God because God had been merciful to him in the Garden of Eden after he and Eve had sinned.

Do you remember what God did for Adam and Eve after they sinned? Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with coverings made from fig leaves. God rejected their way of covering up their sin. God showed mercy and grace to Adam and Eve and covered them with garments made of animal skins. In that manner he saved them from immediate death. Adam and Eve experienced God's mercy and grace and believed in him. Even so, after many years both of them had to die because they had sinned against God and sin's payment is death.

Adam and Eve died and were buried in the ground. Do you think that after many years of being dead that they have returned to life again? Listen carefully so that you will understand what happens to people when they die. If a wicked person dies, his body is buried and his spirit goes to the place of the never-ending fire of punishment where he will be punished forever. There is no escape from this place and there is no reincarnation. Death is final and permanent. A sinner who dies will pay for his sin forever in the awful never-ending fire of punishment.

What happens when a person who trusts in God dies? Where does his body and spirit go? When a person who believes God and trusts in his message dies, God will take his spirit to be with him forever because his sins have already been forgiven. He will not go to the never-ending place of punishment when he dies because he trusted in God to save him from sin's penalty while he was still alive.

At death everyone goes to one of two places. There is no middle road, there is no other destiny. The eternal destiny of everyone is determined by their relationship with God prior to their death. If a person dies who has ignored God, he will go to the place of the never-ending fire of punishment. If a person dies who has trusted in God, he will go to be in the presence of God. Please think about this important point. It is necessary for each person to choose to trust God or they will not go to heaven when they die.

Please come to the next meeting because there is much more for you to learn. This Story is a long, important story which God sent us to teach to you. Maybe some of you are thinking, "I want to do something else." Do you think those thoughts are coming from God? No, they are the lies of Satan trying to keep you away from hearing this most important talk. Satan hates God and hates people. He wants people to die in their sin and go to the never-ending fire. God, however, loves you and wants you to know him. He wants to save you from sin's penalty so that when you die you will go to be with him.

8. After the Meeting

Setting: Greg and Sharon wanted their children to understand the Bible stories that Teacher had taught them so they discussed the stories with them.

Sharon: We need to talk about all that we have heard in the meeting today. I agree with our Teacher that all of us need to understand this teaching. All the men, women and children need to understand it. Lets talk about what we have been learning. If we do not understand some of the teaching, we will ask our Teacher to explain it for us.

Greg: At first when I heard about Cain and Abel being born, I thought, “Good, now there are two people on the earth who will not listen to Satan’s temptations.” Then I remembered how God created plants, animals and people to reproduce like kind. That means Adam and Eve gave birth to children who would act just like they did and do bad things.

Sharon: Yes, that is true. Cain and Abel knew about God. Their parents taught them about God. They heard about the Garden of Eden, how Satan deceived them and how God provided a coat of skins for them. Cain and Abel knew about God and they knew that they needed his mercy. Otherwise, they would die in their sins.

Greg: If Cain had truly believed in God, he would have brought a right sacrifice to God. In some ways he acted like he believed in God but inwardly he followed his own ways. He did not bring a blood offering to God because he followed his own way. Sometimes we act like Cain. On the outside everything looks good but on the inside we are filled with all kinds of evil thoughts and plans.

Sharon: Abel was a good man. He knew that he deserved to die because he was a sinner. He admitted his sinfulness and desired God’s mercy and grace. He took a firstborn from his flock and killed it. This animal’s blood was shed and it died as a symbol of what should have happened to Abel. Abel sought for mercy from God and worshiped him. His heart was right and God accepted his sacrifice.

Greg: Was Cain jealous that God accepted Abel’s sacrifice? He could have listened to God and repented of his sinfulness. I think if Cain had truly believed in God and admitted that he was a helpless sinner that God would have had mercy on him. He saw Abel’s good ways. He saw that God accepts people who truthfully believe in him.

Greg: We are just like Cain. Sometimes we see good things happen to another person and we resent it. We think, “Good things should happen to me,” not just to the other person. Then we think bad thoughts about others because we are jealous. Our sinful nature urges us to be jealous of others. When that happens, we no longer have an open relationship with that person.

Sharon: That’s true. We need to listen to all of God’s talk and not act like Cain did when God talked to him. God wanted to help Cain with his sin problem but Cain was too stubborn to admit that he was a sinner. All of us here are sinners. We know that. Each of us must admit that too.

Greg: God judged Cain for killing Abel. Abel did not belong to Cain. He belonged to God. When Cain killed Abel, he killed a person who belonged to God. That was very wicked. Only God has the right to make people die because he owns them.

Sharon: God did not forget his promise to send the Deliverer. When Seth was born, he replaced Abel. He did not act like Cain. He believed in God. When I heard that Seth and others worshiped God and that the Deliverer would be one of his descendants, I was excited. I want to know more about the Deliverer. I want him to save me from my sin and guilt.

Greg: Adam was nine hundred and thirty years old when he died. Even though he lived a very long time, he had to die because he had sinned against God. He deliberately sinned against God even though God had warned him not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or he would die. God spoke plainly to Adam so he knew better than to eat of that fruit. Adam and Eve willingly ate the forbidden fruit and sinned against God so they had to die.

Sharon: The story of Seth’s birth is good. God gave Adam and Eve a son to be the one through whom the Deliverer would come. The promised Deliverer is the one who will deliver us from sin’s penalty, death. I am anxiously waiting to hear more of the teaching because we are learning much about the only true God.

9. **Review of the Lesson's Themes**

Man is a helpless sinner: Because man became sinful, he is a sinner and cannot save himself from the penalty of sin. That means people cannot do any humanly devised work or religious practice to pay for their sins and cause God to forgive them.

Man can only come to God by God's way: God only accepts his prescribed way for coming to him. All humanly devised ways to come to God are worthless. God does not accept anyone's self-effort to come to him.

Man must have faith in God to be saved: God requires people to believe in him. If someone worships God in form but does not believe in God, he will not be accepted by God. On the other hand, anyone who comes to God in his way will be accepted.

God is holy, righteous, and demands death for sin's payment: The payment for sinning is death. Either the death of a substitute or the death of a sinner is required by God. Holy, righteous God cannot tolerate sin nor does he ignore anyone's sin.

God communicates with man: God has revealed himself to us so that we will know him, believe in him and trust his way for reconciliation to him. God's message is the same always. It does not change in any way.

Satan works against God's purposes: Satan is the enemy of God. He hates God and people. Satan wants people to live wickedly and sin against God so that they will be eternally separated from God.

God is supreme; he is sovereign: No being compares to God. He is over all authorities and controls everything he created. Whether angels, demons, Satan or the material world, God is over everything.

God is loving, merciful, gracious: God loves people and wants them to believe in him. God shows mercy to those who come to him for mercy.

God is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent: No being or power is equal to God. He knows everything and knows the thoughts and intents of everyone. He is always present and sees everything people do.

10. Students Practice telling the Bible Stories

At the end of this lesson, practice telling the story you have just heard to each other. Everyone needs to practice teaching Bible lessons by telling the stories.

Practice telling the stories of this lesson in pairs. One pair should teach one of the stories in the lesson following this lesson's Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents at the beginning of the lesson lists the stories for each lesson. Some of the stories or sections of a story are short so they should be combined with another section to make the exercise of practicing to teach by using stories a profitable exercise.

When you are teaching a lesson by telling the story, use questions and illustrations to keep the story interesting and to make the people think about the lesson's meanings. Be prepared to engage the audience with questions which are crafted to bring out how well they understand the meaning of the story.

Use visual aids or objects used in the lesson when you teach a story. Show the pictures at the right time in the story. When illustrations are used, be sure to bring them to a right and logical conclusion. If you do not make the right conclusions through telling the story, people will likely guess what it means and they could easily come to a wrong conclusion.

After you have practiced telling stories to each other, talk about ways to improve your story-telling ability. Be open to critique and be kind to each other as you work together to help each other become master story-tellers. After all, the goal of teaching God's Word via telling Bible stories is the salvation of spiritually lost people.

11. Teaching Tips for Teachers

Lesson Point #2: Just as God set order in creation and kind reproduces like kind, so too did fallen Adam and Eve reproduce like kind. Appealing to the example of order in creation should clarify this point. This point needs to be emphasized so that everyone understands that man is naturally sinful.

Lesson Point #3:

Abel offered the right sacrifice because he believed in God. By contrast, Cain did not have faith in God and God rejected his offering.

Emphasize that faith in God is required to be pleasing to God.

Emphasize that Cain and Abel represent two ways to respond to God; in faith or in disbelief. Which way will you (audience) choose?

Lesson Point #4:

When people sin, it leads to more sinning, not deliverance from sin. Cain chose to ignore God's warnings and follow his own way which led to tragic consequences. God showed mercy to Cain, however, Cain ignored it. He did not have time for God.

Encourage the audience to not ignore God's goodness and mercy to them. God expects people to respond positively to his mercy and grace.

Lesson Point #5:

Sin is not inconsequential. God knows when people sin. He does not ignore it.

God judged Cain for his sinfulness.

Emphasize that Cain's kind of response to God leads to being eternally separated from God. Warn people of the consequences of responding to God like Cain did. Encourage them to believe God's word and follow the good example of Abel wanting God's mercy and grace.

Lesson Point #6:

God gave Adam and Eve a son named Seth. He was a godly man and through him God's promise to Adam and Eve would be fulfilled. At that time, some people began to call upon the name of the Lord.

Do not mention that Christ fulfilled God's promise to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15. Later, when you teach about Christ, you will make this application.

Lesson Point #7:

Although Adam lived a long time, 930 years, eventually he died just like God had said he would if he ate the forbidden fruit. God's Word is reliable. It does not change. It is important to obey God's Word.

12. To the Honorable Teacher

If any part of this lesson is misunderstood, go over that part again. Play that part of the lesson again. Summarize that part briefly for the students then play that part a second time. Then ask questions to ascertain whether or not this part of the lesson is now understood correctly.

Be prepared to use proper illustrations to clarify a given lesson point. Sometimes it is helpful to use a picture and talk about what is portrayed in the picture as you teach.

Stress to the students that the important themes of this lesson must be understood before proceeding to the next lesson.

Simple drama can be useful to make a point clearer in the people's minds. Before using drama, be sure that it is culturally appropriate to do so. If people are not accustomed to understanding simple drama, it may be best to not use it.