



## Lesson 5: Cain and Abel

### *Scriptural Basis:*



Genesis 4:1-16

### *Overview:*

In this well-known account of the first murder, God accepts Abel's offering, but not Cain's. Then, rather than responding with repentance, Cain takes his rebellion further and kills his brother. God curses Cain, but also has mercy on him.

### *Things to consider:*

- God desires obedience from an attitude of humility and worship, not from an attitude of obligation. He can see the difference, because He looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7)
- It wasn't the type of offering that caused God to reject Cain's offering and accept Abel's, it was the way in which they were presented.
- One hint in the text seems to be the quality of the offerings. Able brought the firstborn, and fat portions (the best he had to offer), and Cain brought fruit (but not the firstfruits, or the best).
- Another hint is found in Hebrews which states that Abel's sacrifice was offered in faith (Heb. 11:4).
- After rejecting Cain's offering, God warned him to change his ways. Instead of listening to God, Cain's heart grew worse instead of better, which led to more pain and suffering.

### *Bible Study for Preparation:*



Read the account of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4:1-16. Note that God's grace and provision are seen in both of the brothers' lives in the form of livelihood and food. Though they had to work hard, they were provided for. Abel had livestock and Cain had produce. The brothers brought offerings, but apparently not with the same motives. God desires obedience but not motivated from a heart of obligation, rather from a heart of repentance, faith and worship.

### *Teaching the lesson:*

- A: Review: Lesson 4: The Fall
- B: Activity:
- C. Video/puppet/reading
- D. Additional activity: