



UNIT 2 | SESSION 2

SIN SPREAD TO PEOPLE

GENESIS 4-5

KEY PASSAGE:

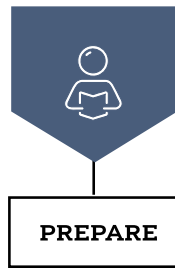
Romans 3:23

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Adam and Eve's sin and its consequences spread to all of their descendants. But God did not forget His promise to send a Rescuer. At just the right time, God would send His Son to save sinners.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Siblings often fight and compete as children and even adults. It may be over something as innocent as who gets the last cookie or as serious as who inherits their parents' prized heirloom.

The competition Cain felt toward Abel—the world's first siblings—reminds us that these family tensions can cause great damage to our relationships with one another, with parents, and even with God.

In the story of Cain and Abel, we find a progressing pattern of jealousy, which led to hatred, which led to murder. The result was not one but two lost sons for Adam and Eve.

God's disregard of Cain's offering stirred an intense jealousy and anger within Cain. Cain raged not only because his offering was rejected by God, but also because his brother's offering was accepted by the Lord. Cain's jealousy led him into a pit of misdirected hatred of Abel, ultimately leading him to murder his brother. The consequence of sin—death—that God had warned Adam and Eve about had come to fruition.

Jealousy never produces anything godly in us. And why is that? It's primarily because jealousy is nothing more than proof that we have staked our identity on what we have done or can do, rather than on what God has done for us through Christ.

When you are tempted to compare yourself to others, let that trigger a reminder of who you are in Christ.

Second Corinthians 5:17 tells us that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." As a child of God, our identity is not dependent upon what we do, but instead upon what Christ has done to save us through His life, death, and resurrection. Rather than living in the comparison between ourselves and others, let's live in the confidence that we have been made new. In Christ, we are fully loved and accepted.

Fight the temptation to compare. Fight the urge to compete with others before God. And trust in the finished work of Christ. For you are not your own; you were bought with a price. And that price is one you can never repay.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Cain: Adam and Eve's first son. He killed his brother Abel.

Abel: Adam and Eve's second son. His name means "breath" or "vapor."

Seth: Adam and Eve's third son. He was an ancestor of Jesus.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Can you think of a time someone else got something you wanted? How did you feel? Were you happy for the other person, or were you jealous?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete “What Does It Mean?” on the activity page. Kids will use the code to answer the big picture question.

SAY “**What does it mean to sin?** When you think about sin, you might think about wrong things that people do. The Bible says that sin is more than just doing what is wrong. **To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.** We will hear more about that in today’s Bible story.”

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: OFFERING TOSS



Form two teams to stand in single-file lines. Give each player one cotton ball, and position a bowl across from each team.

When you say “go,” players should take turns tossing a cotton ball toward the bowl. The team that lands the most cotton balls in its bowl wins. Play a few rounds as time allows.

Point out that the cotton balls look like sheep—white and fluffy.

SAY “In today’s Bible story, we’ll hear about two brothers who brought offerings to God. An offering is a gift given to God. One brother brought some of his produce, and the other brought sheep from his flock. God accepted one of the offerings but not the other. Let’s find out why.”

OPTION 2: CARAMEL COVERED ONION



Prior to the session, prepare a caramel covered onion. Peel an onion and insert a craft stick into the top. Mix 3 to 4 ounces of caramels with ½ tablespoon of water in a microwave safe bowl. Heat the caramels about 2 minutes until they are melted. Stir well. Then dip the onion into the caramel and cover it completely. Refrigerate the onion until caramel is firm, about 1 hour.

Display the caramel treat for the kids. Ask if any of them like caramel apples. Invite kids to shout out words that describe caramel apples (sweet, sticky, delicious, and so on). Then use a knife to carefully cut off a section, revealing the onion inside.

SAY “Would any of you eat a caramel onion? As we will see in today’s Bible story, sometimes what looks good on the outside can be hard and bitter inside. This onion can actually teach us about our hearts. We’ll see how.”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 4–5. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Sin Spread to People.” Use the bolded text to retell or review the story.

SIN SPREAD TO PEOPLE

“**Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel.** Abel grew up and became a shepherd, and Cain worked the ground like a farmer to grow crops.

One day, Cain gave God an offering of some of the produce he grew. Abel gave God some of the firstborn of his flock. God accepted Abel’s offering, but He did not accept Cain’s offering.

Cain was furious. “Why are you so angry?” God asked. “If you do what is right, won’t you be accepted?” God warned Cain that sin was crouching at the door. “Sin wants to control you,” God said. “But you must control it.”

Then **Cain invited Abel to go out into the field. While they were in the field, Cain killed his brother.**

Then God asked Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” said Cain. “Is it my job to look after him?”

But God knew what had happened. He said to Cain, “What have you done?”

God punished Cain. God told Cain that if he tried to work the ground, nothing would grow for him. **God said Cain would spend the rest of his life wandering the earth.** He would not have a home or anywhere to rest.

“This punishment is too much!” Cain said. “You are sending me away from this land and away from You. If I have to wander the earth, whoever finds me will kill me!”

So God put a mark on Cain to protect him so that whoever found him would not kill him. Then Cain left the land and went to live in Nod, a land to the east of Eden. **He had a wife and a family, but they did not follow God.**

God gave Adam and Eve another son, Seth. Adam and Eve’s family grew. **Seth grew up and had a family too. Around this time, Adam’s descendants in Seth’s family began to call on the name of the Lord.**

Christ Connection: Adam and Eve’s sin and its consequences spread to all of their descendants. But God did not forget His promise to send a Rescuer. At just the right time, God would send His Son to save sinners. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display figures: Show two figures to represent Cain and Abel. Help kids distinguish between the brothers by pointing to the Cain figure when telling about him and the Abel figure when telling about him.

Use lighting effects: Dim the lights to convey the seriousness of sin in the story.

Small Group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “Wow. Once sin entered the world, it spread! Sin didn’t affect other people just a little bit; it affected them completely.”

Adam and Eve had probably been so happy to see new life come into the world when their sons were born. Maybe Eve wondered if Cain or Abel might be the One God promised would put an end to sin and death. Is that what happened? Did Cain and Abel obey God perfectly and save the world from sin? No, Cain and Abel were sinners too.

Why didn’t God accept Cain and his offering? The problem wasn’t in what Cain offered; something was wrong with Cain himself. Look at Genesis 4:7. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Gen. 4:7.] Now look at Hebrews 11:4. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Heb. 11:4.] God accepted Abel’s offering because he offered it in faith. God doesn’t care only about what we do; He cares about our hearts.

Remember our big picture question: **What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.** Cain’s heart was full of jealousy and anger. God warned Cain that sin wanted to control him. God told him to be careful and to resist the temptation to sin. But Cain acted out of jealousy and anger, and he killed his brother. Sin leads to death.

So God judged Cain and made him wander the earth. Cain deserved to be punished, but God was kind to him anyway. God also showed grace to Cain by giving him a mark of protection.

When we look around us and see brokenness in the world—shame, conflict, poverty, and so on—we must understand that the problem is not just outside of ourselves. These are consequences of the sin inside of us all. We can’t just try to be good people and make the world better because we need to be rescued from ourselves. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to give Eve a descendant who would put an end to the curse of sin. Adam and Eve’s sin and its consequences spread to all of their descendants. Cain rebelled and Abel was killed. God hates sin, but He loves people. God did not forget His promise to send a Rescuer. Adam and Eve had another son: Seth. God’s promise would come through Seth’s family thousands of years later. At just the right time, God would provide the way out of sin by sending His Son to save sinners. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “What does the story of Cain and Abel show about sin and people? ”

Guide kids to discuss how sin spread from Adam and Eve to their children. Adam and Eve’s disbelief of God’s words led to their disobedience in eating the forbidden fruit. Sin was in Cain’s heart, and out of his jealousy he killed his brother. Sin spread to people, and we all experience its consequences. Our hope is not that the next generation will do a better job at obeying; our hope is found only in Jesus who obeyed for us.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:12.)

| **SAY** “ Why is it sometimes hard for people to get along? ”

Remind kids that Cain’s sin separated him from God and people. Sin not only hurts our relationship with God, it hurts our relationships with others. Sin often comes from pride—thinking you are the best. Jesus demonstrated a better way of living and loving by putting others first.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 4:8.)

| **SAY** “ What should we do when we sin? ”

Guide kids to discuss how to seek forgiveness with God and with other people. We can repent—turn from our sin and turn back to God. We can confess our wrongdoing and ask forgiveness. Prompt kids to think of someone who might feel hurt by something they did. Encourage kids to seek forgiveness this week. Discuss how kids may need to make right what was wrong. For example, if they broke a friend’s toy, they may need to replace it.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 3:13.)