

Step By Step Through The Bible With Children

**"All thy children shall be taught of the LORD;
and great shall be the peace of thy children."**

(Isaiah 54:13)

3rd REVISED EDITION

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Printed in the U.S.A.

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP Chicago, Ill.

LESSON 10 -

CAIN AND ABEL

We have been learning about sin, and the fruit of sin. When we sow good seed we reap GOD's blessings. When we sow bad seed we reap GOD's punishment. We mean by bad seed, bad thoughts, bad words, and bad deeds or actions, the things we do. Let us repeat together **"Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"** (Galatians 6:7). We will repeat it several times.

Adam and Eve sowed bad seed and reaped death. Death means separation. From what were Adam and Eve separated?

First, they were separated from GOD, then they were separated from their covering of *glory*, then they were separated from their home in the *garden*. Sin separated them from

GOD - from His *Glory* and from the *Garden*.

All these words begin with the letter G. That will help us to remember them. We will say them together. GOD, Glory, Garden. GOD dearly loved Adam and Eve, but He hated their sin, and He punished it, not only to teach them how very wrong sin was, but also to teach *us*.

Because Adam and Eve had lost their likeness to GOD, they had to live outside of Eden, but GOD made a way for sinners to meet Him and worship Him with offerings and sacrifices for their sins.

Soon GOD gladdened their hearts by sending two baby boys into their home. The first and oldest boy was Cain, the other was Abel.

We have learned that thoughts, words, and deeds are called seeds - some are good seed and some are bad seed. Now we will learn that GOD sometimes calls children seed and some children are good seed and some children are bad seed.

Can anyone remember what GOD first called JESUS long before He was born? Yes - the *seed* of the Woman. GOD promised that the seed (or child) of the woman would be the Saviour of the world and would bruise the serpent's head, because he tempted Eve to disobey.

These two boys, Cain and Abel were the seed of Adam and Eve - their children. No doubt they often told their children about GOD and how He had made them in His image and likeness, but because they disobeyed Him, they became unlike GOD and were punished for their sin.

I think Adam and Eve loved to tell Cain and Abel of the goodness of GOD and of His great love for sinners, and about the time when they were lost - Lost from GOD - and how GOD sought and found them.

Adam and Eve wanted their children to know and to believe the very thing GOD had taught them, when He killed animals, probably lambs, which had done no wrong, in the place of the guilty ones who had done wrong.

As the boys grew older they had to work for their bread, just as Adam had to do. Cain liked farming, and became a tiller of the ground. Abel was a keeper of sheep, or a shepherd.

Their parents had carefully taught them that GOD was righteous and good, but that they were unrighteous and bad, and that GOD required of them a lamb for a sacrifice. When they were grown they wanted to worship and honor GOD by presenting their offering or sacrifice to Him.

Although they had been taught that a sinner must bring a sin offering, nevertheless, Cain brought the fruit of the ground, for his offering, and Abel brought a lamb from his flock and the fat thereof.

"The LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering," that is, GOD was pleased and accepted not only the offering but also Abel because it was just the kind of an offering a sinner should bring. It was a symbol of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, the LAMB of GOD.

"But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect," that is, GOD was not pleased with Cain or the offering he brought.

These boys were both sinners. They lived in the same house, had the same parents, and perhaps they looked alike and acted alike, yet GOD was pleased with one and displeased with the other.

GOD saw that not only were their offerings different, but their hearts also were different, and GOD could not receive an offering from one whose heart was wrong.

Cain was very wroth with GOD and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, **"Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?"** Cain, why are you angry, and why is your face so long and sulky? **If thou doest well, Cain, shalt thou not be accepted** also?

How patient and tender GOD was with Cain, who had come to worship GOD in his own way instead of GOD's way.

GOD told Cain that it was not too late to bring the right offering, and that near his gate was a lamb - He would wait for him to do right. But Cain was angry with GOD and neither answered Him nor obeyed Him. The one who *did* the *wrong* was angry with GOD who could *do no wrong*.

GOD said to Cain, "**If thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door!**" Cain, if you continue to be angry and refuse to do right, sin will continue to lie at your heart's door and I cannot take it away.

Cain's heart was set against GOD, and he still refused to do right. He wanted his own way, just as his parents did at first.

Cain and Abel left GOD and went back to their home, one a child of GOD with sins forgiven, the other a child of the Devil, with sins unforgiven.

Cain talked with Abel and they had a quarrel. The Bible doesn't tell us about the quarrel but perhaps Cain said, "Abel, I am just as good as you are," and perhaps Abel said, "I know you are, Cain, but you know mother has taught us that we are both sinners and need a Saviour, and I believe what I was taught and you do not."

Cain was angry with GOD, then he became angry with his brother, and he "**arose up against Abel . . . and slew him.**"

The LORD said unto Cain, "**Where is Abel thy brother?**" and Cain said, "**I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?**"

These stories were written for our learning. GOD wants little children to know how very wicked unbelief and disobedience are.

We first learned how Adam and Eve believed Satan instead of GOD. We call that unbelief, then we read how they disobeyed GOD. They did not do anything very bad, perhaps we think, put they took the fruit which GOD had forbidden them to take. They disobeyed their LORD and Master.

Let us see how rapidly sin grew in their first boy. Like his parents, he did not believe GOD's word; he disobeyed GOD; became angry with GOD and refused the second time to obey. He quarreled with his brother, killed his brother, and then lied to GOD. He did all of that because he first set his heart against GOD and did not believe GOD's Word.

Abel, the brother, believed the lessons which his parents had taught him about sin and the Saviour. Cain did not believe. Abel came to worship GOD in GOD's way. Cain came to worship GOD in his own way.

Abel was a godly man. Cain was an ungodly man. Let us repeat "godly" and "ungodly" together. Abel was a man of faith. Cain was not a man of faith. GOD loves the sinner, but must punish sin.

(Help the children accept CHRIST at the close of the lesson).

Lesson: Genesis 4.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:6.

Illustration: Make two altars eight inches at the base and five inches high. First, draw an eight inch line, on which draw five irregular stones, about one and one-half inches each way. On those make four more stones, and upon those three more, making the top about four inches across. Fill the spaces at the corners between the stones with black ink or paint, and outline the rocks with a black line one-tenth of an inch wide. Color the rocks brown, bluish gray, or slightly reddish color.

Cut from a magazine, a cluster of fruit suitable for Cain's offering. Use a figure of a lamb for Abel's sacrifice. Make a flame of irregular shape, six inches high, and five wide. Color fiery red at base, shading to lighter color at edges and top. Around the base color it green to represent grass.

To help the children see the change sin brought, place the original figures of Adam and Eve in the upper left hand corner. A little to the right place the figures without the covering of glory. Beside them place the figures of Cain and Abel (described in the following lesson) with black hearts showing. At the proper time set the altars on the lower part of the board and move Cain and Abel beside them. After placing the fire over Abel's sacrifice, turn the figure of Abel over, showing a white heart, representing the heart of faith which GOD saw. Place a small cross in the upper right hand corner to represent JESUS, the true sacrifice, to which Abel's faith looked. Study the placing of the figures until you have a well balanced scene.

Learn to use silhouette figures on which both a black and a white heart cut from outing flannel has been placed, so they can be reversed to show the change faith brings, also to make them cling to the board. Use them frequently with lessons where the godly and ungodly are contrasted, as much truth can be made plain with their help, and the children seem never to tire of them.

~ end of chapter 12 / Lesson 10 ~
