



Enter the Story

Cain & Abel

A narrative based around the progression of sin and its effects on humanity.

THE BIBLE

Genesis 4

Prepare for the Story

ICEBREAKER

- Have you ever been jealous before? What were you jealous about? What did you do about your jealousy? Were there any consequences for your actions? In your opinion, what's the best way to deal with jealousy?

Rewind the Story

Can someone highlight what has happened in the story so far ...

- Creation – God creates a perfect world
- Rebellion – Sin disrupts God's perfect world

Hear the Story

Scene One: Brothers

After leaving the garden, Adam and Eve started a family. When their first son was born, named Cain, Eve shouted, "God has helped us create another human!" Not long after that, Adam and Eve had a second son, and they named him Abel.

When their sons grew up, Cain became a farmer, and Abel became a shepherd.

As the time to harvest came, people would bring gifts or a portion of their work - called offerings - and give them to God.

So, Cain brought some of his farm produce, and Abel brought the very best lambs from his flock to be offered to God. When God saw their gifts, he accepted Abel's offering but rejected Cain's.

This made Cain very angry and upset.

"Why are you so angry?" God asked Cain. "Why do you look so discouraged? You'll be accepted if you do what's right. But if you refuse to do what's right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at your door, waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must bring it under control."

Scene Two: The Ground Cries Out

Soon after that, Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, *"Why don't we go out into the field..."* While they were walking in the field, Cain attacked and killed his brother.

Later on, God asked Cain, *"Where is your brother Abel?"* *"I don't know,"* Cain replied, *"Am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?"* But God said, *"What have you done? Listen... your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!"*

I am removing you from this land that you've corrupted with your brother's blood. From now on, you will be homeless – a fugitive who wanders from place to place."

Cain replied to God, *"This punishment is more than I can handle! You have removed me from my home... and from your presence; you have made me a fugitive. All who see me will try to kill me!"*

God replied, *"No! Anyone who tries to harm you will receive seven times your punishment."*

Then God put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to attack him. Cain left God's presence and traveled to the land east of the garden, where he would start a family of his own.

Retell the Story

- After leaving the garden, what do Adam and Eve do?
- Who are Cain and Abel – what do they do for work?
- What offerings do they make?
- What is God's reaction to their offerings?
- What does Cain do?
- How does God punish him?
- How does God protect him?
- What happened to Cain?

Discuss the Story

- What is your first reaction to this story? How did this story make you feel?
- What stood out to you from this story? What did you notice for the first time?
- What from this story made you wonder?
- What did God say to Cain after He rejected his offering? What do you think He meant?
- Why do you think Cain killed his brother? Where did Cain learn to do evil?
- If Cain inherited his sin from his parents, do you think Abel is also a sinner?

- What was God’s reaction to murder? Why didn’t God just ignore what Cain had done?
- What punishment did Cain deserve? What might this tell you about God?
- Did you hear anything that reminded you of **other** stories?
- From this story, what did you notice about humans?
- From this story, what do you notice about God’s character or His qualities?

Join the Story

1) GIVING YOUR BEST

In our story, Abel gave his best, and God accepted his offering. His brother, Cain, didn’t offer his best, and that offering was rejected. Why might God desire for you to give your best back to Him? In what ways do we give offerings to God? What might He do if we give less than our best in these areas? What might that mean for us?

2) DRIVEN FROM THE GROUND

After Cain murdered his brother Abel, God says that Abel’s “blood is crying out from the ground,” and Cain will be driven from it. There is an obvious connection between humans and the earth in this story. What connections do you see? Where have we seen it before? Do you think a connection still exists today? Explain.

3) THE PROBLEM WITH SIN

Cain's first sin was giving less than his best to God. Anger and jealousy soon followed. Not long after, Cain committed the first murder. What might Cain's struggle with his own sin reveal about the nature of sin? Are you capable of "murdering your brother," so to speak? Do you think you have within you the ability to do terrible and unspeakable things? Explain.

Pray

God,

Guard us against the devil and his schemes, and give us a heart that desires to give You the very best we have – our first fruits given back to You for the use of Your kingdom. We desire nothing more than to follow you and give back to the one who has given us so much.

Be with us this week as we try to live out our faith - help us see with Your eyes and love with Your heart. Amen.

1st Peter 5:8 - Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.