

CAIN AND ABEL

GENESIS 4: 1-16

Narrator 1: After Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, their life required hard work—just as God told them it would. They still reflected God's image, but things would never be the same because of the sinful choices they made. Eventually, Adam and Eve had two sons. The older son was named Cain; the younger son was named Abel. In Genesis chapter four, the story of these brothers shows just how terrible the effects of sin can be.

Cain: It's harvest time—time to bring God an offering from what I've grown. I've got some of the good crop ... and there are some pieces that are bruised. I'm sure God won't mind if I keep some of the best for me.

Abel: God, here is my offering. I'm bringing the first-born animals, and the best part of the meat. I hope that You'll accept this offering. It's the best that I can give.

Narrator 2: The LORD was pleased with Abel and his offering, but not with Cain and his offering. This made Cain so angry that he could not hide his feelings. So God asked Cain, God: Why do you have such an angry look on your face? If you had done the right thing, you would be smiling. But you did the wrong thing, and now sin is waiting to attack you like a lion. Sin wants to destroy you, but don't let it!

Narrator 3: God was telling Cain that He could see the sin in Cain's heart. Cain needed to turn away from his anger and do what was right. Instead, Cain made a terrible choice.

Cain: Abel, let's go out into the fields. I want to show you my crop.

Abel: Of course, Cain. You must be very proud.

Narrator 3: While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel, and he killed him. Afterwards the LORD asked Cain.

God: Where is your brother? Where is Abel?

Cain: How should I know? Am I supposed to look after my brother?

God: Why have you done this terrible thing? You killed your own brother, and his blood flowed onto the ground. Now his blood is calling out for me to punish you. And so, I'll put you under a curse. Because you killed Abel, you will never be able to farm the land again. If you try to farm the land, it won't produce anything for you. From now on, you'll be without a home, and you'll spend the rest of your life wandering from place to place.

Cain: This punishment is too hard! You're making me leave my home and live far from you. I will have to wander about without a home, and just anyone could kill me.

God: No! Anyone who kills you will be punished seven times worse than I am punishing you.

Narrator 4: So the Lord put a mark on Cain to warn everyone not to kill him. But Cain had to go far from the Lord and live in the Land of Wandering. Cain was jealous of his brother, and allowed that jealousy to take over his heart.

Narrator 1: The family that God had created in the Garden, which should have been full of joy and love, had become filled with anger and murder. Unrepentant, Cain turned his back on his family and his God, but God didn't turn His back on Cain. God never turns away from His people, even when they turn away from him. He always loves us, no matter what we do.

Narrator 2 : When we stay angry or act mean or say unkind things that we are letting our anger take over, and that is when it becomes a problem. When we start to feel like we are getting angry and feel mean thoughts coming into our hearts, that is when we need to stop and pray and ask God to forgive us and give us kind thoughts about others.

Narrator 3: So, we know that sixth commandment tells us to not murder. We learned that murder is not only hurting someone's body, but it is also hurting their heart and God's heart with the unkind things we think and say. That is because each and every one of us is created special by God and he loves us all very much. So much, that John 3:16 says, say it with me, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Narrator 4: God loves us so much that he sent his Son to die for us. Jesus took all the unkind thoughts and words and actions on himself and let himself be murdered so we could be forgiven for every sinful thing we do, even when we hurt other people. So, instead of letting hatred and unkindness and murder live in our hearts, let's ask Jesus to live there instead. Then he will fill us with the fruit of the Spirit.