



LESSON 1

CAIN AND ABEL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4

GOD'S BIG STORY: When Adam and Eve's sons Cain and Abel present offerings to God, He accepts Abel's but not Cain's. Angry, Cain refuses to make things right and kills his brother. Though there are consequences, God still redeems Cain's situation by protecting his life.

WORD OF WONDER: God is faithful. That's who He is. —from 2 Timothy 2:13

- Play Stations:
 - Gifts
 - Shepherd and Farmer Play
 - Cain and Abel Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: A New Color
- Word of Wonder: From 2 Timothy 2:13
- God's Big Story Video / Snack
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: House of the Lord, All of Me
- God's Big Story Script
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Circle Time: Toss It Out
- Craft: Dough Creations
- Game: A New Start





LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Timothy 2:13

I love to experience God through nature. I see His beauty and faithfulness in the cycles of the seasons. What happens in your heart when things seem dead and dry, but then life breaks forth again and a new season of abundance begins?

I can recall dry seasons in my own life when the consequences of my choices seemed to lead nowhere. Maybe you can remember a similar situation from your experience. In those seasons, we can be tempted to believe the lifeless landscape will remain that way forever.

Read Genesis 4:1–16 and allow yourself to identify with Cain. What would it feel like to be the first one on earth to take a life? How much fear and hopelessness washed over him? He couldn't undo his actions, as none of us truly can. And yet, what was God's response?

When I have thrown up my hands, declaring, "There is no fixing this!" never once has God agreed with me. There is always a way through. There is always a fresh start.

When things seem truly hopeless, and there is no obvious solution for our situation, we belong to a faithful Father. He is able to carry us through those moments, protect us from the harshest consequences, and promise us redemption. We can have help and hope in all things because God redeems.

—**Nancy Wood Clark**

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Cain and Abel were the first two children of the first two people! The name Abel means “breath” or “temporary,” which foreshadows the tragedy of his story.

WHAT?

Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. From then on in the book of Genesis, things started to go downhill. Genesis 4 introduces us to Cain and Abel, and to the first murder—between brothers! Sin and its evilness have immediate consequences.

WHERE?

The garden of Eden was near the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (Genesis 2:10–14). This would place Eden in southern Iraq in the region of Mesopotamia. After he murdered Abel, Cain wandered around east of Eden.

WHEN?

The Bible tells us that the events recorded in the book of Genesis happened “in the beginning” (Genesis 1:1). No one knows how long Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden before they sinned and were banished. Eventually, they had children and populated the earth.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY:

Even though Cain sinned, God’s plan for creation didn’t fail! Jesus’ death and resurrection cover sin and restore all who place faith in Him. Anyone in Christ is part of a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)! God redeems by sending Jesus.

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Makes Us New

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4

WORD OF WONDER: From 2 Timothy 2:13

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: wrapping paper, scissors (prep only), gift boxes, gift bows, gift tags, masking tape, writing utensils, toy sheep, toy fruit, toy vegetables, coloring utensils, tissue paper (optional), gift bags (optional), toy shepherd figurine (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Cain and Abel Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Gifts

Set up: Ahead of time, cut several pieces of wrapping paper that will fit around gift boxes. Set out gift boxes, bows, tags, tape, and writing utensils for the kids.

Play: Encourage kids to wrap the boxes with wrapping paper and decorate the gift boxes with bows. You can also have them put tissue paper into gift bags, if available. If kids are able, have them write their names, or the first letter of their names, on a gift tag and put it on their wrapped box or finished gift bag. Watch the kids carefully with tape and be ready to help.

Leader Tip: You can prewrap some small boxes with things like stickers and markers inside. Then kids can unwrap and open these items, which they can use to decorate the "gifts" they will wrap.

Play Station: Shepherd and Farmer Play

Set up: Set out toy sheep, toy fruit, and toy vegetables. If available, also set out a toy shepherd (toy nativity sets may have them).

Play: Invite the kids to play with the sheep and plastic fruit and vegetables as if they were shepherds or farmers.

Play Station: Cain and Abel Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. They can also turn the papers over and draw a picture of a gift they would like to give someone special.

Curiosity Activity: A New Color

SUPPLIES: food coloring in primary colors (2), quality paper towels (2 sheets), cups, water (approximately 2 cups), glass jars (3), spoon

Before kids arrive, choose two primary colors of food coloring that combine to make a new color—red and blue (making purple), yellow and blue (making green), or yellow and red (making orange). Fold two sheets of quality paper towel into long strips and fill each of the cups with approximately two inches of water. Add food coloring to two of the jars (one color in each jar) and mix well, leaving one jar empty. Set the jars with colors on the outside and the empty jar in the middle.



Gather the kids in front of the jars. **We're going to take these two colors and make a new color—but without dumping the colored water or mixing it together. Does anyone think we can make a new color without touching the jars or water?** Pause to give kids a chance to raise their hands to vote. **Who doesn't think I'll be able to make it happen?** Pause to let kids respond. **Let's find out!**

Put one end of a folded piece of paper towel in one of the jars with colored water, with the other end in the empty jar. Do this with both colors, so an end of each paper towel is in the empty jar. Watch as the water creeps up each paper towel and fills the empty jar. Soon, the colors will mix together to make a new color of water in what used to be the empty jar! As this is happening, talk with the kids.



We made a new color! Today we're going to learn about how God makes us new. When we trust in God, He changes us into new creations! Our sins, or our wrong choices, separate us from God. When we choose to trust Jesus as our Savior, God forgives our sins and sees us as brand-new creations—kind of like how the two colors made a new color! When we ask Him for help, God forgives us and makes us new.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

WORD OF WONDER

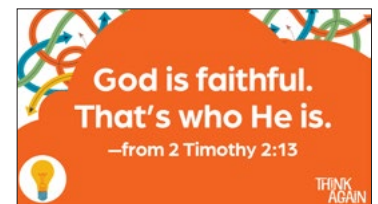
God is faithful. That's who He is.

—from 2 Timothy 2:13

Our Word of Wonder for the Think Again series is from 2 Timothy 2:13. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Our Word of Wonder for this series tells us that God is faithful. God shows His faithfulness when He forgives us and makes us new.

Use a dry-erase marker to write the verse on a whiteboard. Say the verse several times with the kids, pointing to each word as you say it. Then choose a few kids to turn around or close their eyes while you erase one word.



Encourage the kids who can see the whiteboard to say the verse with you while clapping for the missing word. Ask the kids who aren't looking what the missing word is. Play several times, erasing different words each time.

You all did great by saying the words when we clapped! You remembered the words, even when you couldn't see them. We can trust that God will always remember and forgive us, and that He makes us new. He is faithful—that means we can count on Him!

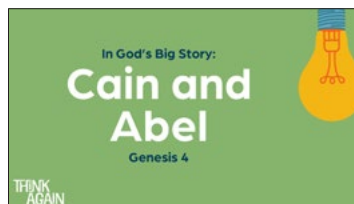
Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **IS FAITHFUL**.—Give two thumbs-up (one on each word).
- **THAT'S WHO**—Put your arms out in front of you, palms up (one on each word).
- **HE IS**.—Point up (once on each word).
- **FROM 2 TIMOTHY 2:13**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if holding a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does it mean to be faithful?** (We can count on God; He is trustworthy; He keeps His promises.)
- **How did God show His faithfulness in the story we heard?** (He protected Cain and let him live, even when he sinned.)
- **If we make wrong choices and sin, do you think He will stop being faithful to us?** (God will always forgive us and love us.)

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO
Watch the God's Big Story Video as
kids eat their snacks!



Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

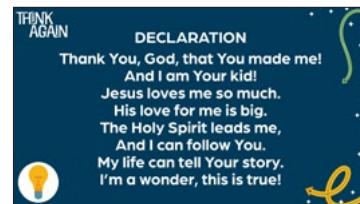
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for being with us today. Help us focus on You and hear what You have to say to us through Your Word. May Your Holy Spirit help our ears hear from You. Thank You for forgiving us and making us new. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God is worthy of our praise. He is amazing! He loves and forgives us. We can thank Him by singing and dancing.

Play House of the Lord, All of Me and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible; Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

Read the God's Big Story Script provided.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: male people figures (2), toy sheep (optional)

Gather two male people figure toys to be Cain and Abel. You'll use the people figures to act out the story as you read it, and the audience will make appropriate verbal responses like "ooh" and "ah" for effect. Choose two kids to be Adam and Eve for the introduction. You can also set out a few toy sheep, if available.

A long time ago, God created everything. He made the blue sky, sparkling water, fish in the ocean, birds that fly, and animals on the ground. He also created the first two people, Adam and Eve. They lived in a beautiful garden called Eden and took care of all the things God made. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Disobeying God is called sin. It makes God sad. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden that God had made for them. Encourage your Adam and Eve actors to pretend to take a walk, as if leaving the garden.

Even though they sinned, God still loved Adam and Eve. God had a plan to redeem, or make new, what sin messed up. God was going to fix what was broken and make it beautiful and right again. God did not give up on Adam and Eve. God made clothes for Adam and Eve, and they lived outside of the garden.

Adam and Eve had children. They had a boy named Cain and then a boy named Abel. Encourage Adam and Eve to pretend to hold and rock a baby. Then thank them and tell them they can leave the scene because their parts are done for this play.

Bring the toy people figures, Cain and Abel, to the front and make them wave to the audience. The boys grew older, and Cain became a farmer. He grew fruits and vegetables. Make the Cain figure pretend to garden fruits and vegetables. **Abel became a shepherd. He took care of sheep.** Make the Abel figure pretend to take care of sheep (you can use toy sheep, if available). **The food they grew and the sheep's wool that kept them warm were gifts from God. Both Cain and Abel brought gifts to God to thank Him.**

Cain brought some plants that he had grown. Abel brought the very best of his sheep. Make both people figures hold their hands out as if offering a gift.

God was happy with the gift that Abel brought Him. But God was not happy with Cain's gift because Cain did not give the best that he had. Cain felt angry and sad. Make the Cain figure stomp and grumble as if mad.

But God wanted to make it better. God wanted to help Cain. So God asked Cain why he was angry and looking so sad.

God told Cain to stop sinning and do what was right. God gave Cain a warning. God told Cain that sin is always waiting for us. We need to watch out for sin and choose God's way instead.

But Cain didn't listen to God. He attacked his brother. And Abel died. Have the Abel figure fall down, and then he can go away.

God asked Cain, “Where is your brother?” Cain pretended that he didn’t know. Make the Cain figure shrug as if he doesn’t know. But God knew what Cain had done. So God told Cain that he would have to go away and work very hard to grow food.

God didn’t stop loving Cain. God kept Cain safe, so no one would hurt him. Cain sinned, but God did not give up on him. God protected Cain’s life. Move the Cain figure so it’s out of the kids’ view.

Adam and Eve sinned. Cain sinned. We all disobey God. But God showed that He is always there to help us learn to do what is right. God will make bad things new. God wants to fix what sin breaks. God promised that one day, someone special—Jesus—was going to come. Jesus was going to defeat sin and make everything right again.

We can trust that God will always be faithful to us because God makes us new.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD MAKES US NEW**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Even though Cain sinned, God had a plan for creation, to make everything new! All of us do wrong things (that’s sin), but Jesus’ death and resurrection cover our sin and make us new when we trust in Him. Through Jesus, God redeems, or makes us new!

Prayer and Blessing

Let’s sing a closing prayer. Listen to me sing it one time and then join in as we repeat it!

Sing to the tune of “Happy Birthday.”

Dear God, we thank You

For making us new.

We love You and praise You

In all that we do.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: As you leave today, remember that no matter how many times you make wrong choices, you can always return to God. He loves you so much! Leave today knowing that He sees you as perfect, beautiful, new creations.

Circle Time: Toss It Out

SUPPLIES: scrap paper (1 piece per kid), trash can or bucket

Gather the kids to sit in a circle. Set a trash can or bucket in the middle. Give each kid a piece of paper (it doesn't have to be a whole sheet). **We're learning today about when Cain sinned and hurt his brother. Even though we didn't do what Cain did, we all disobey God. But God showed that He is always there to help us learn to do what is right. God will make all things new. God wants to fix what sin breaks. That's why God sent Jesus! Think of a time when you have done something you needed God to forgive.** Pause to allow the kids to think.

Now we're going to crumple up our papers! Imagine your sin is on the paper. God forgives our sins and erases them, so they aren't with us anymore. There might be consequences (like we learned), but God can forgive our sins. We'll go around the circle and toss our papers into the trash can. If you make it in the trash can on your first try, you'll answer a question. Encourage the kids to crumple their papers and toss them into the trash can. If they miss on the first try, they can keep trying. If they make it on their first try, they can answer a question.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **In God's big story, who were the brothers?** (*Cain and Abel*)
- **Which brother was faithful to God, and who disobeyed God?** (*Abel was faithful; Cain sinned.*)
- **What warning did God give to Cain?** (*Watch out for sin; it's always waiting.*)
- **What did God say would happen to Cain after he killed Abel? What promise did God also give him?** (*He would wander the earth; God would protect him.*)
- **Have you ever made a wrong choice to sin and disobey God? Share about it if you're comfortable.**
- **What did God do so we can be made new and everything can be right again?** (*God sent Jesus for us.*)
- **How does God show His faithfulness to us even when we make wrong choices?** (*helps us, forgives us*)

God makes us new by giving us forgiveness and a new chance—again and again! No matter how many times we do wrong, if we come to Him and ask for forgiveness, He gives it to us and, He sees us as forgiven and new. Jesus died on the cross for all the wrong things we have done and will do. Let's pray and thank Him for forgiving us, making us new, and for His faithfulness.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises, and to pray for each other. Assign each prayer request or praise to another kid (other than the one who shared it) and let them know that when you point to them during the prayer, they can pray for the item assigned to them. If kids aren't comfortable praying out loud, that's OK! You can select another child to pray or pray for that request yourself. For kids who do not want to pray out loud, encourage them to talk to God silently.

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Craft: Play Dough Creations

SUPPLIES: play dough (1 lump per kid), pipe cleaners or disposable straws (several per kid), dough sculpting tools

Pass out a lump of play dough to each kid, along with pipe cleaners or straws and dough sculpting tools.

We’re going to use play dough to make something to thank God! Cain and Abel each brought an offering, or a gift, to thank God. Abel was a shepherd and brought the best of his sheep to God. Cain was a farmer and brought some of his crops to God.

What gift would you have brought to God to thank Him for forgiving you? Allow the kids to answer. **If you love music, you could play Him a song. If you love crafts, you can make crafts to show Him how much you love Him. You could make a heart to show your love. You could make a person to show yourself telling God, “Thank You.” Make your own ideas using the play dough!**

Give kids time to think before creating. They may need some ideas. A good way to get started is to ask a kid what she likes to do for fun. For example, she could make a piano or drum if she loves music, or a pie or cake if she loves to bake. If a kid loves to play sports, he could create something for God that represents his favorite ball—or the game ball that’s so special. Encourage them to give their best to God.

Take your creation home as a reminder that we can thank God for His love and forgiveness.

Make It Inclusive: For kids who cannot physically shape play dough into specific things, encourage them to share about their hobbies and what they could give as a gift, and allow them to roll the dough into shapes or simply play with it.

Game: A New Start

Invite the kids to stand shoulder to shoulder in a line at one end of the room, and you'll stand at the other end of the room.

You may have played Red Light, Green Light before, but this version is a little bit different. Let's call this game A New Start. When I say, "green light," you can run toward me. When I say, "yellow light," you must walk slowly, and when I say, "red light," you must stop right away. If I say, "new start!" and point to a new starting place, you'll all race to that starting place and stop until I call out "green light" again.

Give directions, calling out red, yellow, or green light periodically, and encourage the kids to follow the instructions. Periodically, call out, "new start!" and point to a different wall or starting place in the room, and then start the game again.

The great news is God redeems—or makes us new—even when we do wrong things. He makes us new and forgives us, no matter what we do. We can thank God for forgiving us and making us new!