



LESSON 1 **CAIN AND ABEL**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Redeems

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: Even if we are not faithful, he remains faithful. He must be true to himself.

—2 Timothy 2:13

- Welcome Question: When have you hurt someone with something you said or did?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Upcycled Treasures
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Greetings Cards from God



**SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!**

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Redeems

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4

WORD OF WONDER: 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 **ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN**

Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Redeems

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4

WORD OF WONDER: 2 Timothy 2:13

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "**I'm curious..**" before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **How do your actions affect other people?**
- **When have you done or said something that helped another person?**



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

Even if we are not faithful, he remains faithful. He must be true to himself.

—2 Timothy 2:13 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), cardstock (2 sheets per small group), scissors (prep only), ball (1 per small group)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Word of Wonder Cards NirV \(1 set per SG\)](#), [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print a set of Word of Wonder Cards NirV onto cardstock for each small group. Cut the cards apart and set aside a set for each group.

Our Word of Wonder for the Think Again series comes from 2 Timothy in the New Testament. It reminds us that even when we sin and make wrong choices, God is still faithful to us. It's who He is! Let's learn the verse together. Open your Bible to 2 Timothy 2:13. Introduce kids to 2 Timothy 2:13 by reading it several times together.

Invite kids to sit in a circle on the floor. Shuffle the Word of Wonder Cards NirV and set the ball in the center of the circle. Explain the activity: **When you hear music playing, you'll gently pass the ball around your circle.** Hand the ball to someone in the circle. **Whoever is holding the ball when the music stops will get up, pick up the card at the top of the pile, and place it face up in the center of the circle. We'll do this over and over again until all the cards are face up. Then we'll work together to put the cards in order of our Word of Wonder.**

Play upbeat music from the [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and stop it every 10–20 seconds for kids to grab cards and place them in the center of their circles. Once all the cards are in the center, encourage groups to work together to make sure their verse is in order, then read it out loud together.



God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid); [Genesis 4 Worksheet \(1/kid\)](#)

Hold up a Bible and explain that the Bible is a big book that includes many smaller books within it. The very first book of the Bible is Genesis, and it tells the true story of creation and the first people God created.

Genesis 4 takes place soon after Adam and Eve leave the Garden of Eden. Their sons, Cain and Abel, both bring offerings to God, but they respond very differently when God sees their hearts. Cain becomes angry and makes a choice that hurts both his brother and his relationship with God. As you read, pay attention to how God responds to Cain before and after his sin and what this story teaches us about our choices and God's care for people.

Read the story paraphrase below aloud. Kids can listen for the missing words and fill them in as they go.
Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel.

When they grew up, both brothers brought an offering to God. Abel brought the best from his flock, and Cain brought some of the crops he had grown.

God was pleased with Abel's offering because Abel trusted God and wanted to honor Him. But God was not pleased with Cain's offering because Cain's heart was not right.

Cain became very angry. God spoke to Cain and warned him to choose what was right instead of letting sin control him.

Instead of listening to God, Cain made a terrible choice. He hurt his brother Abel, and Abel died.

God asked Cain where his brother was. Cain did not tell the truth.

God knew what had happened because nothing is hidden from Him. There were consequences for Cain's sin, and he had to leave his home.

Even after Cain sinned, God showed him mercy by putting a mark on him to protect him from being harmed by others.

This story reminds us that God sees our hearts, our choices matter, and God is both just and merciful.

Word Bank:

- Abel
- offering
- heart
- angry
- right
- choice
- mercy
- hearts
- redeems

Elementary Questions

- **When Cain and Abel grew up, what were their jobs? What offering did each brother bring to God?** (Cain was a farmer; Abel was a shepherd. Cain brought some crops; Abel brought the best of his firstborn sheep.)
- **Why do you think God was happy with Abel's offering?** (Possible answer: Because Abel gave the very best sheep in his flock—he gave God his best!)
- **When God was happy with Abel's offering but not with Cain's, Cain was sad and angry. What did God tell Cain to do?** (To turn around and do what was right. Then all would be well.)
- **How did God care for Cain even after Cain killed his own brother?** (God protected Cain's life.)
- **When has someone forgiven you after you made a wrong choice? How did you feel when they forgave you?**
- **God loves you no matter what! He's always willing to forgive us when we sin. How does that make you feel?**

We all sin, and sometimes our wrong choices hurt other people. But God is always there and ready to forgive us! God redeemed a sad, broken situation by protecting Cain throughout his life. God wants to take what is broken by sin and make it right again in our lives too. God redeems! Let's talk with Him in prayer now.

Preteen Questions

- **Why do you think Cain and Abel brought offerings to God? What did they each bring to God as an offering?** (Possible answer: To thank God for the gifts of food and wool He had provided. Cain, a farmer, brought some crops. Abel, a shepherd, brought the best of his firstborn sheep.)
- **Why do you think God was happy with Abel's offering? Why do you think He was disappointed with Cain's offering?** (Possible answers: Because Abel gave the very best sheep in his flock—he gave God his best! Cain gave God some of his crops, but not the best of what he had grown.)
- **How did Cain feel when God was happy with Abel's offering but not with his? What did God tell Cain to do?** (Cain was sad and angry. God told Cain to turn around and do what was right. Then all would be well.)
- **To redeem is to turn something broken into something good. After Cain killed Abel, how did God care for Cain and redeem his situation?** (God protected Cain's life.)
- **Think about a time when you sinned. What happened as a result of your wrong choice?**
- **Have you seen God redeem that situation or a different situation in your life? Tell us about it.**

We all sin, and sometimes our wrong choices hurt other people. But God is always there and ready to forgive us! God redeemed a sad, broken situation by protecting Cain throughout his life. God wants to take what is broken by sin and make it right again in our lives too. God redeems! Let's talk with Him in prayer now.

Small Group Prayer Time

Open your prayer time with a time of silent confession, inviting kids to say, “I’m sorry” to God for wrong things they’ve done and to ask Him for forgiveness. Encourage them to put their hands out in front of them with palms up as a symbol of receiving God’s gracious forgiveness. Close in prayer, thanking God for redeeming the brokenness in our lives and making it into something beautiful.

LARGE GROUP

Elementary Responding in Worship: Upcycled Treasures

SUPPLIES: assortment of clean trash such as empty egg cartons, round chip containers, cereal boxes, plastic food containers, boxes, empty toilet paper and paper towel tubes, cans without sharp edges, clothes hangers, strips of ribbon; tape; coloring utensils; glue; kid-safe scissors (1 per kid); sample of an upcycled treasure (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, consider taking time to repurpose a clean piece of trash to show kids and inspire ideas. If you’ve completed a home project of repurposing a furniture item, you can take a picture and display it on a slide.

Shortly before the activity begins, place clean trash in a pile in the front of the room. Set the other supplies near the pile.

To upcycle is to take something old or used—like a cardboard box or a milk carton—and turn it into something new and beautiful, or helpful. Have you ever done this? Tell us about it! Invite kids to respond freely. **I love how you redeemed something old and thrown out by turning it around and giving it another chance. Does this remind you of someone else?** Allow kids to respond. **Yes! This is similar to how God redeems broken situations in our lives, except God never thinks of us as old or used! To Him, we’re always priceless treasures!**

Let’s spend some time now upcycling this trash into a new and beautiful treasure! Point to the clean trash at the front of the room. **As we build, we can remember the ways God has forgiven us and made something good out of our broken situations. We can sing praises and thank God for redeeming us!**

Invite kids to form groups of 2–3 and to work together to create something new using the trash and supplies available. They might want to build something new and helpful, like a simple machine or bird house, or a beautiful work of art, like a sculpture or a collage.

Play music from the [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids work and invite them to sing along. Admire their creations, and when they’re finished, give kids a chance to share their treasures with the group.

Make It Inclusive: Some kids may struggle to work on communal art projects—and that’s OK! As needed, allow kids to work independently on their upcycled treasures.

Preteen Responding in Worship: Greeting Cards from God

SUPPLIES: cardstock or construction paper (1 sheet per kid), writing utensils, coloring utensils, mailing envelopes (optional, 1 per kid), mailing stamps (optional, 1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

We learned in God’s big story today that God redeems. What does it mean for God to redeem something? Invite kids to respond. Yes! When God redeems something, He takes what we’ve broken and turns it into something beautiful. When we sin and make wrong choices that hurt our relationship with God and with others, God still loves us and wants to redeem us and our bad decisions. God’s arms are still open wide to us!

Give a sheet of cardstock or construction paper to each kid and set out writing and coloring utensils. Invite them to fold their paper in half so it looks like a greeting card. **Imagine God sent you a greeting card in the mail to remind you that He loves you, He forgives you, and He can take what you’ve messed up and make something good out of it. He is the God who redeems!**

Let’s spend time creating cards from God to us. As you design your card and write it in, think about what God might say to you. What name would He call you? And what picture or image do you think He would include on the front of the card? Play music from the [Think Again Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids create their cards from God.

If you have envelopes and stamps, have each kid write their name and address on an envelope. Write an example on the whiteboard to show proper formatting. For a quicker option, you can address the envelopes yourself afterward—just make sure that kids write their names on their cards. Mail the cards later; getting a note in the mail is always fun, especially when it reminds kids of God’s love and forgiveness!

When kids finish creating their greeting cards from God, invite them to share them with each other or to read their cards aloud as an encouragement to the whole group!

Make It Inclusive: Provide a variety of drawing and writing utensils to benefit kids of varying fine motor skill abilities. For example, markers require less muscle strength/pressure than crayons or colored pencils. If possible, also have simple adaptive tools on hand, such as pencil grips.