

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

Activity: Shepherd and Farmer Play

Activity: Put a Bow on It

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Clean the Board

Activity: Shepherd and Farmer Play

SUPPLIES: toy sheep, plastic fruit and vegetables, toy shepherd figurine (optional)

Set out toy sheep (and a toy shepherd, such as one from a toy nativity set, if available) and plastic fruit and vegetables.

Welcome to church! Today we're going to talk about two people from the Bible. One was a shepherd. That means he took care of sheep. One was a farmer. That means he grew vegetables and food! Can you use these toys to pretend to be a shepherd or a farmer?

Let the kids play and explore using the toys.

Activity: Put a Bow on It

SUPPLIES: tape, scissors (prep only), gift bows (1–2 per kid), real gift boxes or cardboard boxes (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Toddler Gift Boxes Sheet

Ahead of time, print and cut out the gift boxes from the Toddler Gift Boxes Sheet and put tape on the back of each gift box. Tape the gift boxes to walls spread out across the room, where toddlers can reach them. Instead of using the printable, you can also use real gift boxes or cardboard boxes.

Leader Tip: If you have a lot of toddlers, print two or more copies each of the boxes so there are plenty of gift boxes for the kids. For older toddlers, you could even hide a few of the boxes or tape them higher.



In our story today, two brothers gave gifts to God. What gift would you want to receive? What gift would you give to God? Allow the kids to respond.

Can we sing worship songs for God? What about clapping our hands for Him? Do you think He loves to see you smile and thank Him? I do! What about sharing His love and story with others? Pause to allow kids to respond to each question. **Yes, I think all of that makes God happy! God is so good to us. He forgives us and loves us. We can thank Him!**

Let's put bows on the gift boxes around the room to help us remember to thank God. Can you help me put bows on the boxes? Pause to give kids time to respond. **Thank you! Take one or two bows, find a picture of a gift box, and put a bow on it!**

We can thank God because of His great love and forgiveness. He forgives us when we do wrong things. The gift is forgiveness through Jesus, so we can become new on the inside.

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD MAKES US NEW.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—Point up.

MAKES US—Point to yourself.

NEW—Put your hands up in the air over your head.

Worship

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

Play songs from the Little Learners Playlist and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Our part of God's big story today is a great story from the Bible, about brothers named "Cain" and "Abel." Encourage the kids to say, "Cain" and "Abel." Let's find out from the Bible what happened to them.

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read Genesis 4:2–10 from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can print a Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction of the Bible story.

The first people God made, Adam and Eve, had to leave the garden when they sinned. Sin is when we do wrong things and make bad choices. Sin separates us from God. Even though Adam and Eve made a wrong choice and sin came into the world, God had a plan to save them (and us!) and to make us new!

God's plan was to make people new and invite us to have a relationship with Him.

Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel. Encourage the kids to pretend to rock a baby.

They got older, and Cain grew up to be a farmer. Abel grew up to be a shepherd. Encourage the kids to pretend to be a farmer and pull plants out of the ground. Then encourage them to pretend to be a shepherd and pet sheep.

The brothers each brought a gift to God. Cain brought some food that he had grown, and Abel brought his very best sheep. God was happy with Abel's gift, but not with Cain's because Cain did not give his best. That made Cain very sad. Show me your sad faces. Can you pretend to cry?

Allow the kids to respond.

God knew Cain was sad, so He talked to Cain about it and told Cain to be careful not to sin. Cain didn't listen to God. He hurt his brother.

Even though God was upset with Cain for what he did to Abel, God still made a plan to protect Cain. We do wrong things too, and God forgives us and makes us new!

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Dear God. kids repeat

You know me, love me, and lead me too. kids repeat

Please help me follow You. kids repeat

Thank you for snacks so yummy. kids repeat

That fill my happy tummy! kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

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. Open a Bible to 2 Timothy 2:13 and practice the verse with the kids.

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.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's sing a prayer to God. Listen to me sing it one time, and then we'll sing it together! We talked about giving gifts to God. It got me thinking about a song that we sing to people sometimes when we give them gifts. You may recognize the tune.

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.

Invite the kids to sing it with you.

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 mess up, you can always return to God. He loves you so much! Leave today knowing that He sees you as perfect, beautiful, new creations.

Activity: Clean the Board

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry-erase markers, towel or eraser

Invite kids to come up one at a time and scribble on the whiteboard with dry-erase markers. Then invite kids to come up one at a time and, using a towel or eraser, wipe one time each until all the marker is cleared off the board.

Sin is when we do wrong things and make bad choices. We can ask God to forgive us, and He doesn't see us as sinners. He sees us as clean and beautiful. He wipes away all our sin, kind of like how you wiped away the mess on the board! God makes us new!