



3rd – 5th

August 30-31, 2014

DATE

Cain and Abel

LESSON TITLE

Genesis 4:1-16, Romans 5:8
Adventure Bible (pp. 6-7, 1244)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Give God Our Best

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

We want kids to discover how awesome it is to give God the best, most valuable things in our lives. Think about ways you've sacrificed for God, and share it with kids.

check-in/out

Ask kids what they put in their gift boxes, and learn about the specific way they want to give more to God this week.

large group heads up

Bring your Connect Time paper to Large Group and set it out near the stage or along the walls.

Have markers ready to use at the end of large group.



connect time

Goal: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

DESERTED ISLAND

Break the room into small groups. Each group gets **a large piece of butcher paper and a box of markers.**

- Introduce yourself and learn kids' names.
- **Draw** a large simple ship outline on the butcher paper (it doesn't need to be fancy, just an outline of a boat)
- **Tell kids** to think about the 3 most important, valuable possessions they would bring to a deserted island (xbox, toys, books, pets, tv, etc)
- **Give each kid** a marker and tell them to write or draw those things inside the ship.
- If you have time, go around the group and have everyone say their name and one of the important things they wrote down.
- **Bring the paper to large group and lay it near the stage or along the walls.**

Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will **(1)** retell the story of Cain and Abel **(2)** understand how God gave his best to us through Jesus **(3)** identify ways they can give their best to God.

Why: We want kids to understand that God loved them so much, that he gave up the most important thing ever, his son Jesus! This is why it's so important for US to give our best to him too.

Tip: Kids may have trouble understanding how they can “give” something to God; remind them that serving and loving others is a great way to give our best!

small group

Review and Dig Deeper:

***Pass around a bean bag to the person who's speaking. Each group member should be prepared to hold the bean bag and answer questions.**

1. What do you think it means to give your best to God?
2. What did Cain and Abel offer to God? Why did God accept Abel's offering over Cain's?
3. Even though Cain disobeyed God, do you think God still loved him?
4. What ultimate sacrifice did God make for us?
5. Why did God offer Jesus Christ to us as a sacrifice, even though we sin and disobey him like Cain did?
6. What is something you can give to God? (It could be money, but also discuss non-money offerings and gifts of service, etc.)

OFFERING OUR BEST

Tell kids that we are making “offering gift boxes” as a way to show that no matter how old we are, and no matter what we have to give, we can all sacrifice valuable things, time or energy for God.

- **Hand out slips of paper** and a **marker** to each kid.
- **Tell** them to write down one thing or way that they can choose to give their best to God this week.
- **Hand out a gift box** and **markers** to each kid and tell them that they will put their piece of paper inside the box.
- They can **decorate** the box with patterns, pictures, and words that remind them how much God loves them.

Extra time? Go around the small group and ask kids if they want to share what they put in their gift box. You can also have them draw more valuable things to give or ways to give God their best on butcher paper.

special notes

Talking about the violent story of Cain and Abel can be tough. Just remember to focus on the main point of the story, which is that God wants us to give our best, and that he gave his best to us.

presenter tips

You can find the video clips here (<http://bit.ly/1gAosQi>) and here (<http://bit.ly/1A6q2mq>). Think about some personal examples you can share with kids about what you've given up to God. If you have any examples of how God blessed you in return, share those too!

script

Hey guys, it's great to see you all here! Welcome to Kids' Club! We have some awesome stuff planned for today, but before we get started, can someone tell me what super cool, valuable things you would want to keep with you on a deserted island? (Let kids respond.) Great! Well, we're going to watch a video about some people who are sailing for a deserted treasure island too!

Video: Muppet Treasure Island/Cabin Fever

Wow, the guys in that video are really dying to get to land, aren't they? I bet they wish they had some of their favorite things from back home, kind of like the things you all wrote down in your small group! Personally, I would bring... (say a few important objects that you would take to an island).

THE FALL

Well before we had any of this cool stuff (reference some of the things kids named), way back in the beginning of our world, there were two people named Adam and Eve, and they got to talk and walk and hang out with God! But even though they knew God and lived in a perfect world, they still disobeyed Him. From that point on, there was sin in the world. Things were no longer perfect. Do you think God planned a rescue to get close to them though? (Let kids respond.) Yes! He loved them no matter what.

CAIN AND ABEL

Adam and Eve had a son named Cain, and then another son named Abel. Raise your hand if you have a sibling? (Let kids respond.) Well, these siblings have quite a story. Cain was a farmer, and Abel was a shepherd. Now, out of these two jobs, who would rather be a farmer? (Let kids raise hands.) Who would rather be a shepherd? (Let kids raise hands.) Cool! Well one day, Cain decided to give God an offering. Does anyone know what an offering is? (Let a kid respond.) Awesome, thank you! An offering is basically a gift. Cain wanted to show God that he



script continued

loved him, so he offered up some of the leftover plants he had grown. Abel then decided to give God an offering too, so he took the best and most precious firstborn sheep from his flock, and offered it to God.

Let's make a comparison real quick. Cain giving God his leftover crops would be like you giving God the broken toys that you don't play with anymore. They're usable, but they're just sitting in your closet, and it doesn't really hurt to give them away. We're going to watch a video now that shows what it would be like for God to get an offering like that. As you watch, think about what it would feel like if you were God and you were getting those types of gifts.

VIDEO: Give Your Worst

Yikes! I don't know about you, but if I was God and I got gifts like that, I would not feel very loved! Well it was the same with Cain; God knew Cain was not giving his best. Abel however, gave God his most prized possession! Giving his best firstborn lamb would be like you giving God your most valuable, most important, favorite object in the whole world! How do you think God would feel if he got an offering like that? (Let kids respond.) Absolutely! It would be awesome! Way better than leftovers!

CAIN KILLS ABEL

Here's what happens next in the story. If you think God liked Cain's offering best, raise your hand now. If you think God liked Abel's offering best, raise your hand now. Well let's see what God did. (Choose a kid to read the verse.)

SLIDE: Genesis 4: 4-7: "The Lord was pleased with Abel and his offering. But he wasn't pleased with Cain and his offering. So Cain became very angry. His face was sad. Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you so angry? Why are you looking so sad? Do what is right. Then you will be accepted. But if you don't do what is right, sin is waiting at your door to grab you. It longs to have you. But you can rule over it.'"

So Cain was mad and jealous because God just wanted Cain to give his best. But God had a pretty good reason to reject his offering, didn't he? Unfortunately, Cain didn't understand that. He could have obeyed God right there. But instead, he took Abel out to a field and killed him. From then on out, God said Cain had to wander the earth and farm crops that would not grow. Cain was afraid that he would be killed though, so God told him that he would protect him always, and no one would hurt him.

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY

All right, we're going to play a game now. We're going to pretend that the middle of the room (go to the middle of the large group area and demonstrate) is a lone, deserted island. And the outside walls (point to nearby walls) are the ocean. I'm going to describe situations of people either giving their best to god, or NOT giving their best at all. If they are giving their best, stay on the island. If they are NOT giving their best, go to the walls. Ready? Let's go!

- John is playing a baseball game, but because he didn't get picked to be the pitcher, he gives the least possible energy to the game even though his teammates are playing really hard. (ocean)



script continued

- Sarah goes to church with her family, and she gives some money that she saved from her allowance before she spends it on something for herself. (island)
- Steve's family buys Christmas presents for kids in need, and his parents ask Steve to get a present for someone. He decided to use the cheapest, most beat up toy he has stashed under his bed that he would never use. (ocean)
- Jenny is decorating a party for her little sister's birthday; Jenny's friends want her to come play, so instead of spending time making the decorations look nice, she just leaves it like it is. (ocean)
- Kevin is the president of the art club at school; he takes time to prepare really fun art projects with the best art materials he can find for his friends. (island)

GOD GAVE HIS BEST TO US

Now why is it so important to give our best for God? Why should we have to spend time, money or effort on giving him offerings? Well there's a pretty good reason. Let's look at this verse:

SLIDE: Romans 5:8: "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Let's think about this for a minute. Maybe God asks us to give up money, or our valuable possessions, but that is NOTHING compared to what God gave up for us. He literally sent his own son, the most important, treasured, beloved thing to him, and he sent him to earth to die for our sins, and RESCUE US! When you think of it that way, does it seem so hard to give up things in our life that we love, like toys or games or money?

RESPONDING

There may be a time when God asks you to give your absolute best for him, and it's because he gave his absolute best for us. Not just His best, but his ONLY SON. That's pretty incredible! As you think about how God did that for us, I'm going to give you a choice. Along the walls (or wherever you've lined up to the connect time papers), you can come up to the these imaginary ships you drew, grab a marker, and I want you to circle one of the things you would take to that deserted island that you be willing to give to God instead. You could also come up with a new thing and write that down if you want. We'll play some music and you can do that right now.

VIDEO: COME WITH ME (played while kids walk up to the paper)

WORSHIP

You know what we could do RIGHT NOW to give God our best? Worship! We can give our energy, our dance moves, our singing voices, our prayer, and any other way you want to praise him right now. It's one of the best gifts you can give God, so let's stand up and worship him with all our hearts!

VIDEO: I Can Give

VIDEO: You Come in a Hurry

Prayer: God, thank you for loving us so much that you gave up the best, most amazing thing in



script continued

the world, your son Jesus. Thank you for giving your best for us, and help us to do the same for you. Amen!

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per group:

One new large piece of butcher paper

Per kid:

markers

small group supplies

Per group:

markers

Per kid:

gift box (generic, cardboard box)

slips of paper

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 6-7, 1244)

a/v needs

1. **Video:** Cabin Fever: <http://bit.ly/1gAosQi>
2. **Video:** Give Your Worst: <http://bit.ly/1A6q2mq>
3. **Slide:** Genesis 4: 4-7: "The Lord looked with favor on Abel's offering, but on Cain's offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry and his face was downcast. Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you but you must rule over it.'"
4. **Slide:** Romans 5:8: "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."
5. **Video:** <http://crossroadskidsclub.net/portfolio/come-with-me/>
6. **Video:** I Can Give: <http://crossroadskidsclub.net/portfolio/music-video-i-can-give/>
7. **Video:** <http://crossroadskidsclub.net/portfolio/motion-video-you-come-in-a-hurry/>

connect questions

What is the most valuable thing you own?
Would you be willing to offer that up to God?

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