Use Week of:

Cain and Abel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

MAIN POINT: Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

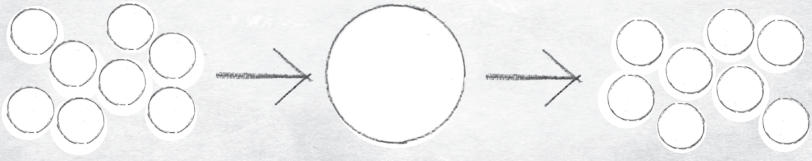
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 56

LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(25-30 MINUTES)
PAGE 58

SMALL GROUP LEADER
(25-30 MINUTES)
PAGE 64



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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Imagine Adam and Eve's joy as their family grew. With each birth, maybe Eve hoped that this son would be the one to end the curse of sin, to crush the head of the snake. (Gen. 3:15) But as her sons Cain and Abel grew up, she and Adam probably witnessed with grief how sin affected their own children. Cain was not the Promised One, and neither was Abel.

When they were grown, Cain and Abel each had jobs. Abel was a shepherd, caring for his flocks of animals. Cain worked the ground as a farmer. One day, they each presented an offering to the Lord. God accepted Abel's offering, but He did not accept Cain's.

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God warned Cain about sin, and told him what he needed to do to be accepted. Then Cain and Abel went out into the field, and Cain killed Abel. God knew what Cain did, and He punished him. God sent Cain away from the land to wander the earth. Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Some time later, Eve gave birth to another son. She named this baby Seth. Seth was not the promised One either, but Jesus would come from Seth's descendants. (See Luke 3:23-38.)

As you teach, help kids develop an awareness of the deep effects of sin. Then point them to the future hope—the hope we now realize—in Jesus Christ. Generation after generation, God's people lived with an expectant hope. Could this son be the One? And for many generations, they faced the reality of sin. No one was good enough.

Every baby was born a sinner—like his parents and like Adam and Eve. Still, the people hoped. At just the right time, God would send His Son to save sinners. (Heb. 11:13; Gal. 4:4) God always keeps His promises.

MINISTRY GRID
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Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

After **Adam and Eve** left the garden of Eden, they **had a son named Cain and another son named Abel**. Both Cain and Abel were sinners because of Adam and Eve's sin. **Abel became a shepherd, and Cain worked the ground** by growing plants and crops.

One day, Cain gave God an offering of some **of the produce he grew. Abel gave God some of the firstborn of his flock. God accepted Abel's offering, but He did not accept Cain's offering.**

Cain was furious. God asked Cain why he was so angry. God told Cain that if he would do what is right, his offering would be accepted. **God warned Cain that sin was crouching at the door, waiting to control Cain if he did not do what is right.**

"Sin wants to control you," God said. "But you must control it."

Then Cain invited Abel to go out into the field. While they were in the field, Cain killed his brother.

God asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," said Cain. "Is it my job to look after him?"

But **God knew what had happened. He said to Cain, "What have you done?"**

God punished Cain. God told Cain that he would spend the rest of his life wandering the earth. If Cain tried to work the ground, nothing would grow for him. Cain would not have a home; he would have nowhere to rest.

"This punishment is too much!" Cain said. "If I have

to leave this land and wander the earth, whoever finds me will kill me!"

So God put a mark on Cain to protect him so that whoever found him would not kill him. Then **Cain left the land and went to live in Nod**, a land to the east of Eden.

God gave Adam and Eve another son. They named him Seth. Adam and Eve's family grew. Seth grew up and had a son named Enosh (EE nahsh). **Around this time, people began to call on the name of the Lord.**

Christ Connection: God had promised that one of Eve's descendants would put an end to sin and death. Cain was not that descendant. He was sinful like his parents, Adam and Eve. So people kept living and trusting God to keep His promise. At just the right time, God would send His Son to save sinners. (Hebrews 11:13; Galatians 4:4)



WANT TO DISCOVER GOD'S WORD? GET *ADVENTURE!*

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that God kept His promise to give Eve a descendant who would destroy sin: Jesus. (Gal. 4:4) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out *www.lifeway.com/devotionals*.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Cain and Abel
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 4:1-16,25-26
MAIN POINT: Cain's sin separated him from God and people.
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Welcome time

ARRIVING ACTIVITY: What's it like to move?
Guide kids to think about what it would be like to move to a new city away from the friends and family that they love. Allow a child who has moved to tell about her experience.

SAY • Moving away would probably be very difficult. Leaving our friends and our family to start over somewhere else can be hard. In today's story, one person had to move away because of his sin. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.***

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Offerings" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

SAY • Each of the items on the page could be used to bring glory to God. And remember, ***Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.*** In our story today, Cain and Abel brought an offering to God to bring Him glory. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. How do you think they could have used their jobs to give glory to God? We'll see what happens!

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Job charades

Form two teams. Explain that teams will take turns sending one team member to draw a slip of paper. That team member will act out the job written on the paper for her team to guess. If they have not guessed correctly after 30 seconds, the other team may guess. The team with the most correct guesses wins!



- slips of paper
- marker

Jobs: *ballerina, teacher, farmer, bus driver, writer, artist, doctor, shepherd, baseball player, photographer*

SAY • You acted out each job so well! Today, we are going to learn about two brothers. One was a farmer and one was a shepherd. Each of them brought an offering to God. God accepted one of the sacrifices, but He didn't accept the other. Then one of the brothers sinned. We'll learn more about it in our story today!

OPTION 2: Separation toss

Guide kids to find a partner. Give each pair a foam ball. Each pair will toss a ball back and forth. If one person drops the ball, each kid must take a giant step back.

- foam balls

SAY • Each time someone dropped the ball, you and your partner became more and more separated. The Bible tells us that our sin separates us from God and from people. This separation isn't necessarily a physical separation, like being a few steps away in the same room. The Bible tells us that our sin keeps us from having a right relationship with God. Without Jesus, our sin would separate us from Him forever! In our story today, we will learn about a time when **Cain's sin separated him from God and people.**

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Cain and Abel
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Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

- wide-brimmed hat
- binoculars

[Large Group Leader enters wearing a wide-brimmed hat with binoculars to her eyes.]

LEADER • You never know what you are going to see out there! This hot air balloon lets us get a bird's eye view of the beginning of God's creation! We've seen Him create animals and oceans and birds. We've even seen Adam and Eve make a huge mistake in the garden of Eden. Their sin separated them from God, and they had to leave the garden forever. Today, we'll get to know some of Adam and Eve's children. They had two sons, and they named the sons Cain and Abel. But I'm jumping ahead of myself. Let's first review where we have been so we can figure out where we are going next!

Giant timeline (2 minutes)

- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster

LEADER • Remember what the world was like before creation? Well of course you don't! You weren't there.

Neither was I, but I hear it was pretty dark, since God hadn't created light. Only God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit existed. Then God spoke and created everything. He said let there be light, and boom! There was light, and it was good. **God created everything for His glory.**

Then, God created people. This was on the sixth day. He didn't make people like He made the animals. It was much better than that! **God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.** He made Adam and Eve, and He saw that they were good, too.

Then the serpent came to Eve. He lied to Eve, and she and Adam ate from the tree that God had said not to eat from. **Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God**, and they had to leave the garden. God had a plan, though. He would one day send Jesus to take away sin so that everyone who trusts Him could be made right with God.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Today, we will learn more about sin and its effects on the world. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.*** I'm so glad God sent Jesus so that we could be made right with Him and no longer be separated!

- Big Picture Question poster

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • Let's sing and praise God for all the wonderful things He created—and for His great plan to send Jesus to take away the sins of the world.

- "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)" song

Sing together "All Creatures of Our God and King (He Is Our Gain)."

Key passage (4 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- "There Is Only One" song

LEADER • Our key passage, 1 Corinthians 8:6, helps us understand that there is only one God. He created all things. Jesus came to earth so that we might trust Him and be made right with God. Jesus holds the world together, and through Him, everything was created and everything has life.

Show the slide or poster of the key passage, 1 Corinthians 8:6. Lead the boys and girls to read the verse. Then sing together "There Is Only One."

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Bibles
- "Cain and Abel" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

LEADER • God created all things, and everything He created was good. Then the serpent tricked Eve, and she and Adam sinned against God. From that point on, sin made life difficult for all people. In our story today, we will learn about two brothers. One brother's sin separated him from God and people. Listen closely to figure out which brother this was.

Open your Bible to Genesis 4. Show the video or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read the bolded text.

LEADER • Whose sin separated him from God and people? God did not accept Cain's offering, and Cain was angry. He was jealous and killed his brother Abel.

Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Ask the following review questions:

1. What were the names of Adam and Eve's first sons? (*Cain and Abel, Genesis 4:1-2*)

2. What jobs did Cain and Abel have? (*Cain was a farmer, and Abel was a shepherd; Genesis 4:2*)
3. What did Cain and Abel bring to God as a sacrifice? (*Cain brought some of the produce he grew, and Abel brought the firstborn of his flock; Genesis 4:3-4*)
4. Whose offering did God accept? (*Abel's, Genesis 4:4-5*)
5. What did Cain do to Abel? (*Cain killed Abel, Genesis 4:8*)
6. What was Cain's punishment? (*Cain would be separated from God and would spend the rest of his life wandering the earth. Nothing would grow for him; Genesis 4:12*)
7. How did God show mercy to Cain even after his sin? (*God put a mark on Cain to protect him, Genesis 4:15*)
8. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.***

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

- "Unit 1, Session 4" discussion starter video

LEADER • Our sin has consequences, even when we don't get caught. Sin separates us from God. Let's talk about that after watching this video.

Show the "Unit 1, Session 4" video.

LEADER • Have you been tempted to do what you know is wrong? It only takes one sin to separate us from God. The Bible tells us that the required punishment for sin is death. God sent Jesus to die on the cross so that we could trust Him and receive forgiveness. Jesus paid for our sins and took our place so that we could be right with God. This is the greatest gift we could ever be given. What should we do when we want to do something we know is wrong?

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Big picture question and prayer (3 minutes)

- Big Picture Question Poster

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

LEADER • ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.*** Who were the first two people to sin? (*Adam and Eve*) Did sin stop with Adam and Eve? (*No, all people sin.*) The worst consequence of sin is that it separates people from God. Thankfully, God sent Jesus so that everyone who trusts Him would not be separated from God any longer.

Dismiss to small groups

THE GOSPEL: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

 **God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

 **We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

 **God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

 **Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.

 **We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

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BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 4:1-16,25-26
MAIN POINT: Cain's sin separated him from God and people.
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- large sheet of paper
- marker
- sticky notes

Write the key passage on a large sheet of paper. Guide kids to read it. Repeat it, covering a few words with sticky notes each time. Continue until all the words are covered and kids can recite the key passage from memory.

SAY • Great job! You guys have memorized our key passage, 1 Corinthians 8:6! Can someone explain the passage in their own words? God created all things, and He created us for His glory. All things were created through Jesus, and because of Jesus, we all may live forever with Him if we turn away from sin and trust in Him. Putting our trust in anything else to save us from our sins is pointless. Jesus has paid the price for sin so that we can be forgiven.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- slips of paper
- markers
- tape

Write the following questions on individual slips of paper and hide them around the room. Write each answer on a slip of paper and tape all answers to one area of a wall. Make duplicates or add other questions for larger groups.

1. Who were Adam and Eve's first sons? (*Cain and Abel, Gen. 4:1-2)*
2. What jobs did Cain and Abel have? (*Cain was a*

farmer and Abel was a shepherd, Gen. 4:2)

3. What did Cain and Abel bring to God as a sacrifice? (*Cain brought some of the produce he grew, and Abel brought the firstborn of his flock; Gen. 4:3-4*)
4. Whose offering did God accept? (*Abel's, Gen. 4:4-5*)
5. What did Cain do to Abel? (*Cain killed Abel, Gen. 4:8*)
6. What was Cain's punishment? (**Cain's sin separated him from God and people.** *He would spend the rest of his life wandering the earth. Nothing would grow for him; Gen. 4:11-12*)
7. How did God show mercy to Cain, even after his sin? (*God put a mark on Cain to protect him, Gen. 4:15*)
8. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.***

Form two teams and explain that each team will send the first person to find a question hidden around the room. Each player may only bring back one question. Then the team must decide the answer to the question.

The next person in line will retrieve the answer and the team will tape the question and answer together to the wall near their team. The next person in line will go find another question, and the process will repeat. Review the questions and answers after all are found and taped together.

SAY • Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. We don't know exactly why God didn't accept Cain's offering, but we do know that he was jealous of Abel's offering being accepted. Cain killed Abel and faced tough consequences. **Cain's sin separated Him from God and people.**

Activity choice (10 minutes)



- paper
- permanent marker
- markers
- crayons

OPTION 1: A new heart

For each child, use a permanent marker to draw a heart shape on a sheet of white paper. Ask kids to write or draw sins on the inside the heart shape. Ask them to make the inside of the heart shape as ugly as possible.

SAY • Cain's sin started with jealousy in his heart. Since sin first entered the world, everyone is born a sinner. God knew that people would sin, and He made a way for us to be forgiven. [*Give each child a new sheet of paper with a heart shape.*] God sent Jesus. When we love and trust Jesus, He makes our heart new so that we desire to honor God! He takes away all of our sin, and He gives us His Spirit so we can follow Him. **Cain's sin separated him from God and people**. Our sin separates us from God, too. Only through Jesus we can be made right with God.

OPTION 2: Confessing sins

- white board or poster board
- marker
- sticky notes
- pens or pencils

SAY • What does it mean to confess sins? Why do we confess our sins if Jesus has already paid for them? Confessing sins means praying and telling God about what we have done that isn't pleasing to Him. He already knows those sins, but He wants us to pray and turn from those sins and turn to Him.

Take a sticky note. What sins have you committed that you need to tell God about? Write or draw them on the sticky side of the sticky note and stick them to the board. Don't worry; no one will see your sins.

Draw a cross on the board, and arrange all the sticky notes inside the cross shape. Explain that Jesus took the

punishment for sin on the cross. Then take the notes off, tear them, and throw them away. Explain that Jesus paid for sin so that we would not have to. **Cain's sin separated him from God and people**. Our sin separates us from God and people too, but through Jesus we can be made right with God.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons or markers
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*

Distribute each child's journal. Explain that God wants us to give Him our very best. He deserves all the glory from our lives. This means that we show how awesome He is and show that we are thankful to Him with the way that we live. Instruct the kids to draw something that they can offer to God as a way to bring glory to Him. Writers can make a list of ways that they can bring God glory.

SAY • Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. We can offer our very best to God and give glory to Him with our lives. God can use what we are good at and the things that we have to show others how great He is! We can honor Him with our lives.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus as payment for sin so that we would not have to be separated from God forever. Pray for each child by name, asking God to show other kids how they might give Him glory with their lives.

Journal Page

God the Creator

Key Passage: 1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions: Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.
What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Session 1: God Created the World
Genesis 1:1-25
God created everything for His glory.

Session 2: God Created People
Genesis 1:26-2:25
God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.

Session 3: Sin Entered the World
Genesis 3:1-24
Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

Session 4: Cain and Abel
Genesis 4:1-16,25-26
Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Session 5: Noah and the Ark
Genesis 6:5–9:17
God is holy, and He punishes sin.

Session 6: The Tower of Babel
Genesis 11:1-9
God created people to give glory to Him alone.



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There is one God, the Father. All things are from Him, and we exist for Him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through Him, and we exist through Him.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Corinthians 8:6



There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 8:6



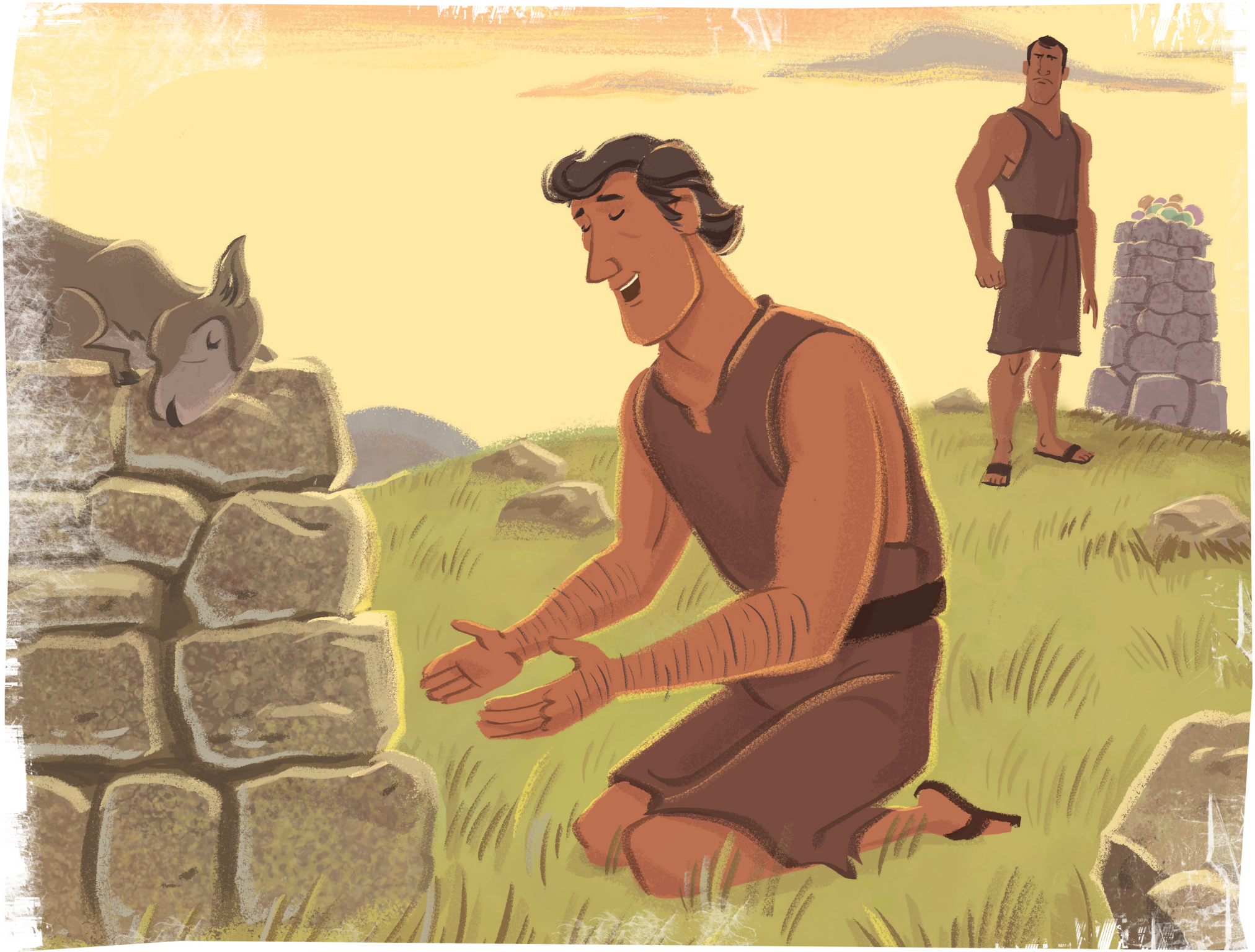
There is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

1 Corinthians 8:6



Cain's sin separated him from God and people.





Offerings

Instructions: Circle the items that may be used to glorify God (to show how awesome God is). Draw your own example in the box and write about how it might be used to glorify Him.



DOWNLOAD THE TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

BIBLE STORY:
CAIN AND ABEL

- Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. Abel's offering was accepted, but Cain's was not.
- Cain was angry and killed Abel.
- Because God is holy, He must punish sin.
- Sin separates us from God and people.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What offering did Cain and Abel bring? (See Genesis 4:3-4.)
- Cain sinned. What is the required punishment for sin? (See Romans 3:23; 6:23.)
- How can your family bring an offering to God this week?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

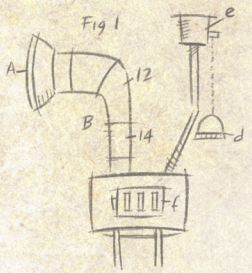
- As you drive to different activities throughout the week, talk about ways that God might use each activity as an offering to Him. Pray that you would give God glory through the activities.
- Go further: Make care kits to meet other needs in your community.



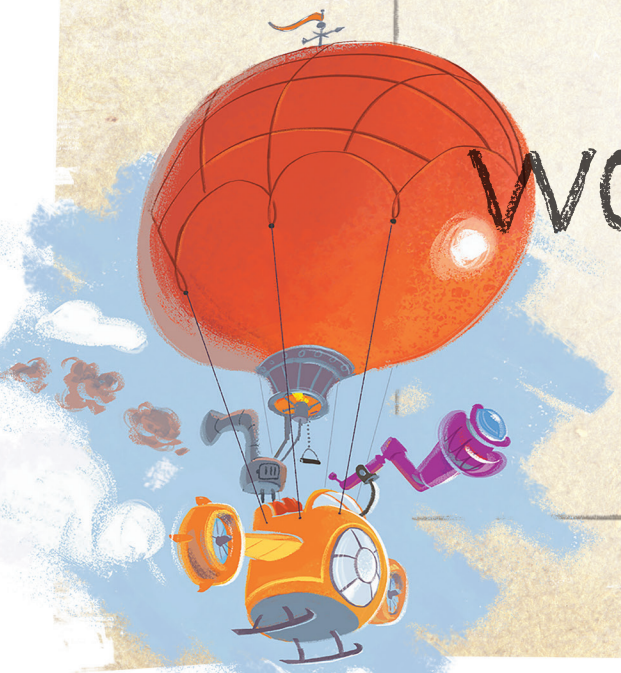
Why did God create the world?

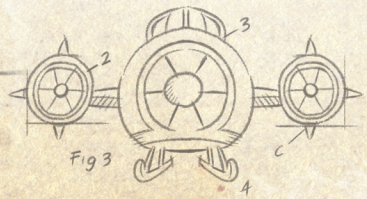


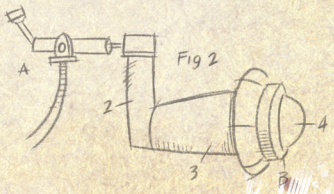
Why did God create the world?

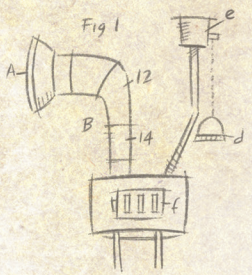


God created the world and everything in it for His glory.



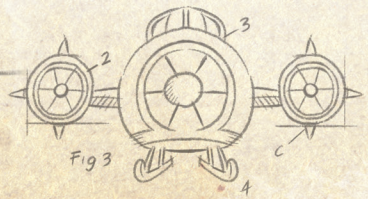


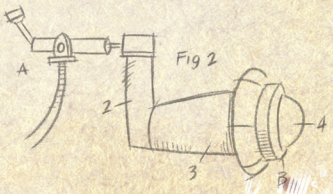




What is sin?







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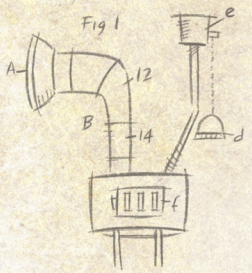

Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.



