



Cain Kills Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

Third-and fourth-graders are in a time of budding independence. They'll start participating in sleepovers, overnight camps, and other activities that pull them out of the family sphere and into the influence of others. But kids this age will still have a strong tie to their families and can easily grasp the importance of loving their family members. Use this lesson to help kids discover that loving their families is something God wants them to do, always.



► Bible Point
God wants us to love our families.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Damage Control <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and apply it to life.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson), paper, pens Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Interview With God's First Family <i>(about 30 min.)</i> Create interview questions for the first family.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, pens, paper Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Key Verse
"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).

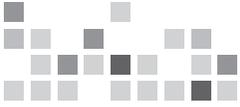
Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will actively find ways to love their families.

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Don't Do as Cain Did <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make a reminder of what they learned of from the Bible.	paper, washable markers or crayons	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Comic strips from the "Don't Do as Cain Did" activity	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Damage Control Supplies

Bibles
CD player
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this lesson)
paper
pens

Teacher Pack

CD: "Brotherly Love"
(Romans 12:10) (track 12)

1

GETTING STARTED

Damage Control

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form pairs, and give each pair a sheet of paper and a pen.

Say: **We're going to talk about things that make us angry and jealous within our families. With your partner, come up with a situation that would make someone angry at a family member or jealous of something a family member has or does. Write that situation on your paper.** Give pairs about three minutes to work. Then have pairs tell everyone the situations they came up with.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES, because God knows what can happen if we don't. That's why today's Key Verse, Romans 12:10, is so important.** Hand out Bibles, and have kids look up Romans 12:10 and read it aloud in their pairs. Then lead kids in reading the verse as a group: **"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).**

Today we have a special song, written just for this verse. Let's learn and sing it.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Brotherly Love" (Romans 12:10) (track 12 on the CD). Sing along with the kids.



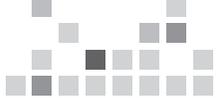
**Yeah, yeah,
Yeah, yeah,
Yeah, yeah,
Yeah.**

**Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.
Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.**

**Your love must be real;
It must be sincere.
Honor one another above yourselves.**

**Be devoted to one another
In brotherly love, in brotherly love.
(Repeat 4x.)**

"Brotherly Love" (Romans 12:10) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



When the song ends, have kids trade the situations they wrote about earlier with another pair, making sure each pair gets a different situation. Say: **Now let's talk about ways to control angry and jealous emotions. Think about the words to the Key Verse we just learned. Read the new situation with your partner, and tell each other one way to follow the advice of the Key Verse in that particular situation.** Give pairs time to read and discuss.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think it means to be devoted to your family?**
- **What are some ways family members show how important they are to each other?**
- **What examples did you come up with to apply the Key Verse to your situation?**
- **What makes it easy or difficult to follow what the Key Verse says when you're angry or upset?**

Say: **There are no perfect families. Every family has tough times. People get mad at or jealous of one another. But ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES, and we can do that by obeying our Key Verse even when it's difficult. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead kids in saying the verse with you: **"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).** Let's learn about the first family God created and how well they did with loving each other.

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

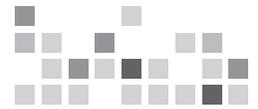
Interview With God's First Family

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids form trios. Distribute today's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and give each group at least one Bible, pens, and several sheets of paper. Have kids find the "Interview With God's First Family" section on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: **Let's pretend that we get to interview Adam and Eve's family. Each group will create interview questions you'd like to ask after reading each section of the Bible passage. Each section can be found on your Bible Truth Sleuth page, and you can write your questions on the lines below the section that tells you which verses to read.**

You'll have 20 minutes to read all the sections and come up with your interview questions, so spend about three minutes on each section. Later, you'll share your questions with the entire group. Encourage kids to refer to their Bibles for details



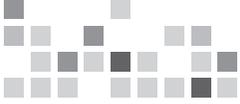
Interview With God's First Family Supplies

- Bibles
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- CD player
- pens
- paper
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Newsroom Noise"
(track 11)

Interview With God's Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





about each section of the Bible passage. Circulate among groups to offer help as needed. Encourage kids in each group to work as a real news team to create interviews like those seen on television news programs.

Play “Newsroom Noise” (track 11 on the CD) six times as kids work. After 20 minutes, call time. Read the headline from each section of the Bible Truth Sleuth page, and allow a few groups to share some of their best interview questions for that section. After all groups have presented their best questions for each section, lead everyone in a huge round of applause for putting together excellent interviews.

Say: The world’s first family certainly had problems with anger and jealousy! And our interview questions are great for trying to better understand why the first family acted the way they did. It’s too bad we can’t go back in time and ask Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel these questions!

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: In your trios, discuss the following questions. After each question, I’ll invite you to share your discoveries.

Ask:

- **What do you think about Abel’s sacrifice to God compared with Cain’s?**
- **What do you think of Cain’s actions?**

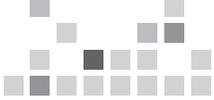
Say: The Bible doesn’t tell us why God liked Abel’s offering more than Cain’s. The Bible *does* say that Abel brought his best portion to God. There must have been something wrong with Cain’s attitude when he brought his offering to God. Maybe Cain didn’t offer his best. No matter the details, God had warned Cain and told him how to do better.

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some things Cain could’ve done to love his family instead of hurting them?**
- **What can you do to follow God when you feel angry or jealous of a family member?**
- **What are good things that happen when we love our families?**

Say: Anger and jealousy tore apart Cain’s family, and it can tear apart families today. God warned Cain that his anger was getting out of control, and God gave him a chance to change his ways. We have the same chance, and we can choose to do what God wants us to do. ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES. Let’s make a reminder of what we’ve learned today to help us not repeat Cain’s mistakes.



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Don't Do as Cain Did

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: We can learn from Cain's hard lesson without having to go through the situation he did. ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES** and not hurt them the way Cain did. Let's work together to create a reminder of that lesson.

Set out paper and markers or crayons. Say: **You'll have 10 minutes to create a comic strip showing how you can handle a situation that caused anger or jealousy in your family. Think of ways you can choose to act differently than Cain did.** Help kids as needed. After kids finish, invite willing kids to share their comic strip with the rest of the group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What have you done in the past when something's caused anger or jealousy in your family?
- What do you want to do differently after hearing about the way jealousy tore apart Cain's family?

Say: **It's good to want to act differently than Cain and learn from how he treated his family. ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** When you learn from Cain's mistakes, your past mistakes, and the mistakes of others, you'll find the best ways to love your family.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God gave us our families, and ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** When we do, we're not only loving our family members, but we're showing God love, too. Look at the Daily Challenges on your Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and choose how you can love your family this week. You can choose one or more of these three options:



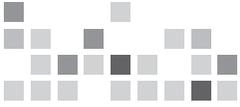
Don't Do as Cain Did Supplies

paper
washable markers or
crayons

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





- I'll share my _____ — something I don't usually share — with a family member.
- I'll let a family member be first at anything he or she wants this week.
- I'll do something nice for a family member. That nice thing will be _____.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.

Say: **Cain was everything *but* loving to his brother. ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES, and when we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week, we'll be doing exactly that.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES**. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

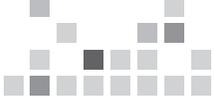
Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Have kids exchange comic strips with a partner and silently pray for the situation in their partner's drawing. Then pray aloud: **God, we need your help to love our families the way you'd like us to love them. Please help us remember to always love our family members, even when it's difficult. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

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Comic strips from the
"Don't Do as Cain Did"
activity





Lyrics ■■■■

Brotherly Love (Romans 12:10)

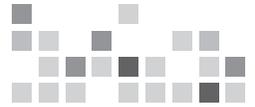
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