



The Beginning

Lesson 4: Sin Spreads

(Genesis 4:1-5:32)

After Adam and Eve sinned, they were made to leave the Garden of Eden. In doing so, they would not be able to walk and talk with God like they had done when they lived there. Now, people would try to worship God and offer sacrifices to Him.

God blessed Adam and Eve with two children. These two boys were named Cain and Abel. The Bible says that Abel worked to take care of sheep, while Cain worked as a gardener to grow food.

Then, the time came that both Cain and Abel made offerings to God. Cain brought an offering of food from the garden to God. Abel brought an offering of the firstborn of his sheep to God. But, only Abel's offering pleased God. There was something about Cain's offering that was not what God wanted.

This made Cain very angry. And, the Lord asked Cain why he was so angry. God told Cain that if he would do what is right, He would accept Cain. But, if he would not do what is right, sin was waiting for him. And, God said that Cain should do what is right in order to rule over sin.

But, as Cain talked with his brother and when they were in the field, Cain was so angry and jealous of his brother that he killed Abel! This is the first person in the Bible who physically died on earth. "Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9).

Even though Cain lied to God, God knew exactly what Cain had done. God told Cain that Abel's blood cried out to Him from the ground. And, because of Cain's sin and wickedness, God punished him for the rest of his life. Cain would never feel

at home on the earth anymore and the ground would no longer give him as much food as before.

Because of his punishment, Cain was afraid. He thought that someone would surely kill him. But, God put a special mark on Cain so that no one would kill him. Then, Cain went to another land and had a family of his own.

Through Cain's family, we continue to see sin spreading on the earth. For example, one of Cain's descendants was named Lamech. This man did a few things that did not please God. First, he had two wives (Genesis 4:19). But, God had said that He only wanted people to have one husband or wife (Genesis 2:22-24). Then, this man also killed another person who hurt him. He said that if Cain was punished for murder, then he would be punished much more.

Then, the Bible tells us that Adam and Eve had another son. This son's name was Seth. Seth had a son named Enosh. At this time, the Bible says that men "began to call on the name of the Lord" (Genesis 4:26).

Now that people were unable to live in the Garden of Eden, these men and women died. But, at this time, people lived a lot longer than they do today. For example, Adam lived 930 years. Seth live 912 years. Then, Genesis 5 teaches us about the descendants of Seth. This is important because the Bible story will focus on the children of Seth throughout the Old Testament.

There was a man who descended from Seth named Enoch. Enoch was a man who believed in God and did what was right. And, the Bible tells us that God took him (Genesis 5:23-24). This man's son (Methuselah) lived the longest of anyone we have ever known about – 969 years. Then, a man named Noah also descended from Seth, with his three sons – Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

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Study Questions:

- 1) Who were the first two sons of Adam and Eve?
- 2) What job did Abel do?
- 3) What job did Cain do?
- 4) What did Cain and Abel offer to God?
- 5) Whose sacrifice pleased God?
- 6) What did Cain do to Abel? Why did he do it?
- 7) How did God punish Cain for his sin?
- 8) Who was the third son born to Adam and Eve? Who were some of his descendants?

Memory Verse:

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat.” (Genesis 4:7).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: