

When we last heard about Adam and Eve, what had happened?

- Because Adam and Eve did not follow God's ways, they were now going to get sick, feel pain, and eventually die.
- God removed Adam and Eve from the garden and put powerful angels outside of the entrance to the garden. A flaming sword flashed back and forth, guarding the way to the Tree of Life.
- Humans could not eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.

What do you think will happen next now that Adam and Eve are outside the garden?

I'm going to tell you a story now about their two sons...

After leaving the garden, Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel.

When they grew up, Cain became a farmer, and Abel became a shepherd, looking after sheep.

At harvest time, Cain brought to God a gift from what his farm produced,

while Abel brought several of the very best lambs from his flock.

God accepted Abel and his offering of the lambs, but he did not accept Cain and his offering.

This made Cain very angry and upset.

"Why are you so angry?" God asked Cain. "Why do you look so discouraged? You'll be accepted if you do what's right. But if you refuse to do what's right, then watch out! Sin is crouching like a lion at your door, waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must bring it under control."

Later, Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, *"Let's go out into the fields..."*

And while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother. This was the first murder described in the Bible.

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

"I don't know!" Cain replied. "Am I supposed to keep track of him wherever he goes?"

But God said, *"What have you done? Listen ... your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! You have to leave this place and the ground you have dirtied by making your brother bleed here. Now it will not produce great crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be homeless, on the run, constantly wandering from place to place."*

Cain replied to God, *"My punishment is more than I can handle! You have removed me from my land ... and from your presence; you have made me a wanderer, on the run. All who see me will try to kill me!"*

God replied, *"No! They will not kill you. Anyone who tries to hurt you will receive seven times your punishment."*

So God put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him that they would be in trouble if they hurt him. Then Cain left God's presence and traveled to the land east of the Garden.

Retell The Story

This may seem redundant, but it helps you remember and own the story. You will want to help them retell the story by giving them leading questions like: *So, where did the story begin? What happened next? Whose offering did God accept? Who got mad and killed his brother? What did God say to him then? Who had to leave God's presence?*

Dialogue

These questions are a good start to draw out observations about the story.

- **Why did Cain kill his brother?**
 - » *He was upset that God accepted his brother's offering and not his.*
- **Why did Cain have to leave?**
 - » *He had dirtied the ground with his brother's blood – he had killed his brother.*
 - » *God will never allow evil to stay around him.*
- **Did Cain's sin destroy him like God said it would?**
 - » *Yes, he had to go away from God, lose the chance to be in God's presence.*
- **How is Cain like his parents, Adam and Eve?**
 - » *He decided to do things his way instead of trust God.*
 - » *He ended life – his brother's. His parents ended their chance at eternal life with God.*
- **How did God show his love for Cain in the story?**
 - » *He told Cain to get his sin under control – gave him a warning.*
 - » *He gave Cain a mark so that no one would kill him, even though he had killed his brother. He told Cain that anyone who tried to hurt him would receive seven times his punishment.*
- **What do we learn about God in this story? (When your kids answer, ask them: **Where in the story did you see this?**)**
 - » *God is powerful.*
 - » *God knows all things. Nothing that we do is hidden from Him.*
 - » *God is perfect, good, and right – He is holy.*
 - » *God gives us chances, but he cannot be around sin.*
 - » *God is loving – He protected Cain from being hurt.*

Application *(Optional questions that may help apply the story)*

- What do you like best about the story and why?
- What questions do you have about the story?
- Have you ever been really upset with your brother/sister/friend? What did you do about it?
- How are we like Cain?
- How can we bring ourselves "under control" when we are feeling really angry?

Scripture Memory Verse

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 master it. Genesis 4:7