

Family Worship Guide

Week 4

Read

- **Genesis 4:1-16**

God warned Cain that because of his lack of faith and his angry response that "sin was crouching at [his] door." When we choose to sin, or give into anger, the power of that sin increases in our hearts. Satan doesn't just want us to play with sin, He wants sin to own us and control us. For instance, people who tell little lies, turn into people who tell big lies. People who steal a little, turn into people who steal a lot. After Cain brought the sacrifice that God rejected, God gave Cain a chance to try again. God encouraged him, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?" Cain did not accept this second chance from God. Cain gave into his anger. He had a wonderful chance to repent and turn to God. This is an important lesson for us in our families. When we do things that are wrong, when we hurt each other, it is so important that we apologize quickly, seek forgiveness, and try to do better the next time. God did not let Cain get away with his sin. Sometimes it seems like people are able to do all sorts of terrible things and they "get away with it." God always deals with all sin. No one will "get away" with anything. This means that 1) we can trust God that He will deal with all evil in His perfect time, and 2) that we must take all of our sin seriously and put our full faith and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. We can praise God that Jesus took the punishment for all our sins on the cross so that we might be forgiven.

- **Questions**

1. What sacrifice did Cain bring to God? *He brought "some of the fruits of the soil" which means likely fruits, vegetables, or grains.* What did Abel bring? *Abel brought the best meat from his best sheep.*

2. Why do you think that God accepted Abel's sacrifice but not Cain's? *It may be that Abel gave the best, while Cain did not. The best explanation is found in Hebrews 11:4 where we learn that Abel gave his sacrifice in faith (believing God with a humble heart) while Cain apparently did not.*

3. When God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's, how did Cain respond? *He became very angry.*

Anger can be a very dangerous thing in a family. How does our family handle our anger? *You may need to encourage the family to be honest about how they feel about how anger is handled in the family. Parents can set a great example here by confessing any problems we have with anger (raising our voice, being harsh, etc).*

4. God gave Cain a chance to repent and "do what is right." But Cain, in his anger, did not let go of his sin. What happened because Cain did not let go of his first sin? *He took the next step in his sin, which was to kill his brother.*

5. When God confronts Cain about where Abel is, Cain asks God, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

What is the answer to that question? *The answer is "yes" Cain was his brother's keeper. Siblings are responsible before God to protect each other and stick together.* How can the siblings in your family increase your commitment to care for and protect each other?

6. In Genesis 3, God did not destroy Adam and Eve when they sinned, but gave them a second chance.

Here God does the same with Cain. What does that tell us about God? *God is loving, forgiving, fair, and just. He always takes sin seriously, and He continues to love those who have trusted in Jesus as their Savior.*

Praise

- Praise God for giving us:
 - Himself
 - Our family
 - Our church family?
- What has God done in our family this week that we can give him praise?

Pray

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION – "For seeking us and redeeming us"
- CONFESSION – "Confess our wrongs"
- THANKSGIVING – How has God blessed you? ...
- SUPPLICATION – Your prayer requests as a family
- Pray that we will live obediently to God's Word.
- Pray for your neighbors by name! Pray that God will bless them!

Memorize

Genesis 4:7b : "If you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

Digging Deeper

(Optional activities)

Kids Fun

Option 1

Supplies needed:

A glass jar which has an opening just large enough for a child to slip their hand in and out. A small ball that just fits through the opening of the jar.

I have a challenge for you. In this jar I have a treasure! Yes, I know it looks like a ball. But it is a very valuable ball. Who would like to try to reach in and get the ball? Be sure to grab it tightly.

Wrap your whole hand around it and pull it out. It is against the rules to tip the jar over.

If the jar is the right size the child will be able to slip his or her hand through the opening, but when they make a fist around the ball, they will not be able to get their hand out. Give each child a chance to try the game.

What happened? You were able to put your hand into the jar, but when you made a fist around the ball, you were not able to take your hand out.

Imagine if you never let go of the ball! You never would have been able to get out.

I wanted to show you this because it is a picture of how we can get trapped in sin. When we sin, God wants us to confess, let go of the sin, and return to Him. If we hold on to the sin, we can't get free. In a minute, when we read the Bible together, we are going to see an example of how this happened to someone.

For Teens

1. Is it possible to be angry and not sin? Can you think of any situations where it is appropriate to be angry? Take a look at the following Scriptures to explore this question further. Ephesians 4:26, Mark 10:13-15, Colossians 3:8, James 1:20.
2. In Genesis 3, Adam blamed Eve and God for his sin. Eve blamed the serpent. Here in Genesis 4, Cain does not want to be responsible for Abel. Why do you think it is so hard for us to take responsibility and admit when we sin?
3. Are you the oldest child in the family? If so, what roles and responsibilities does God want you to play for those younger than you? What steps could you take to grow as the oldest sibling in the family?