**1. Motivate**

What is something that makes you unique compared to the rest of your family?

* I’m good at math/writing/cooking/science/music/sports …
* only one with red hair and freckles
* I’m tall/short/thin/chunky …

A video introduction to the Bible study is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/hfv9kdwz> If there is no wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/yz3eehs7>

* only one that hates chocolate
* early riser in the AM
* procrastinator
* learned to read early/late
* have teeth missing that never came in
* color blind
* learned to ride a bicycle at age 4
* only one that likes bluegrass music
* only one that can play a guitar

**2. Transition**

Even though some of those differences can be difficult to navigate sometimes, it need not be a source of conflict.

* We are family and we get along pretty well most of the time.
* God expects us to look after our family members.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Different Individuals

Listen for differences.

Genesis 4:1-2 (NIV) Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." 2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

Who were the two sons she birthed and how were they different?

* Cain: worked the soil – a farmer
* Abel: kept flocks – raised livestock – probably sheep and goats

Though different, why were they equal in contribution to the family’s well-being?

* you need things that grow - grains, vegetables, fruits
* you need animal products - meat, milk, hides

How does work contribute to our overall well-being?

* provides products people need
* contributes to society, economy
* provides income for purchasing what you need
* gives you something useful to do –work is not always boring
* most jobs provide human interaction

Consider: The *family* is God's *design* and God's *plan*.

Note the four relationships demonstrated in these two verses?

God

Adam Eve

Cain Abel

* husband/wife
* human/God
* parent/child
* sibling/sibling

What are some obstacles to healthy family life in our culture?

God's presence is an integral part of our home.

* single parent families
* emphasis on materialism
* unfaithful spouses
* aspects of social media – everyone is on their phones – ignoring each other
* cultural differences (family, neighborhood, city)
* physical health problems
* financial problems in the family
* lack of faithful church participation

How has your family influenced your life?

* training – practical, spiritual
* attitudes towards people, towards God
* demonstration, modeling of a lifestyle, mindset, worldview
* even physical health – proper diet, exercise, environment
* may negatively influence one’s life if family is dysfunctional

⇒ A right relationship with God is the foundation of all human relationships

3.2 Different Offerings

Listen for a contrast of offerings.

Genesis 4:3-7 (NIV) In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. 4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 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."

What were the differences between Cain’s and Abel’s sacrifices?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cain | Abel |
| * some of first fruits of the soil
* an offering to the Lord
* God did *not* look favorably on it
* did not do the right thing
 | * fat portions from some of first born of flock
* God looked with favor on Abel and his offering
* did what was right
 |

What are some possible reasons that the offerings were received differently by God?

* one was a blood offering, the other was merely plants (no shed blood) – although stipulations about blood sacrifices did not come until the giving of the Law after the exodus
* one was “some of the fruits” the other was “fat portions of the firstborn” – a difference in the quality of the offerings
* Note the verse says “*Cain and* his offering,” “*Abel and* his offering” – God was looking at the attitude of the worshiper as well as the offering

Consider Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

Abel was a man of faith …

* God knew that Cain was *not* acting in faith, maybe only out of *duty*

What is the relationship between faith and genuine worship?

* worship is declaring God’s worth … with music, with words, in prayer
* doing so in or with faith means we actually believe what God’s Word says as we worship
* it is more than just pretty music or impressive words
* it is singing, reading, declaring what we truly believe down deep in our heart and mind

How does Abel continue to influence us?

* we read of this even today – Abel is long gone
* by his example we gain understanding of faith
* we learn about an attitude of faith as we tithe and give offerings to God

How does our influence as people of faith live long past us and affect those who follow us?

* the life we live before family, friends, people we work with
* what we teach our children
* our participation in the Great Commission (giving, going, praying)
* things we may write that others will read

3.3 Different Destiny

Listen for a curse.

Genesis 4:8-12 (NIV) Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. 11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

What did Cain do to Abel?

* suggest a walk out in the field
* attacked his brother
* murdered him

How did he literally try to cover up his deed and how did he attempt to hide it from God?

* apparently buried him out in the field
* denied any knowledge of the problem to God
* declared it was not his role to keep track of his brother

What consequences befell Cain for his crime?

* under a curse
* driven from the ground
* God declared that the ground would no longer yield crops for him
* “You’ll end up being a restless wanderer.”

What do we learn from this passage about God’s expectations for us to be our brother’s keeper?

* we do have certain responsibilities to one another
* we help one another, care for one another, minister to each other
* especially with our family members
* with our siblings
* with our children
* with our aging parents

What kinds of responsibilities do we have for our family members?

* basic life needs – housing, clothing, food
* emotional needs – encouragement, support, sharing life lessons
* teaching basic skills – walking and talking of toddlers, social interaction, manners, grooming, doing chores in the home, giving increasing responsibilities
* spiritual training – Bible stories, spiritual Truths, prayer, trusting God, modeling Christian life before children
* siblings – support and encourage one another – help, understudy training in chores, sports skills

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Make worship real.

* Worship is more than hymns, songs, and preaching during Sunday services.
* Take time this week to worship God as a part of your daily quiet time.

Deal with relational pain.

* Take time to reflect on relationships in your family where you have experienced hurt feelings.
* Ask the Holy Spirit to be your counselor in these matters.

Deal with anger.

Cryptogram Puzzle



* Begin the process of identifying your anger and begin the process of forgiving those who have hurt you.



Boop-beep! We received this communication from Riacy, a small Christian settlement on Alderaan. Family relationships are strong there. They want you also to be aware of your responsibilities, even on a galaxy far away. The key and an example of how the code works are shown below. Our decoders are at a Wookie huttball tournament, so we need your help to decode the message. When you have decrypted the symbols, pass the message along to your young family department. Help and more Family Activities from your solar system are available at <https://tinyurl.com/yz3eehs7> Beep-boop!