

=MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 2

Abel

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-15

Objects to have:

Three signs:

1. NO (A sad face drawn beside the word)
2. SORRY (Teardrops drawn around the word)
3. YES (A happy face drawn after the word)

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold the three signs, one behind the other, in your hands with the word NO visible.) How many know what this word says? It says "NO." Do you know that when Mother or Daddy says to a son or a daughter, "Please come here," or "Will you do this?" some say, "NO!" They do! Sometimes teachers say, "Do not talk now," and some boys and girls shake their heads or say "NO" to themselves. I know what happens when some children do this: Their mothers or their daddies punish them. Then when some of these boys or girls get punished, they are sorry for the wrong that they have done. Teachers sometimes have to scold and to punish, also. Then some boys and girls say, "I am sorry I have done wrong. I will try not to disobey or to do wrong again."

Everybody has done wrong. The Bible tells what to do about sin in our lives. Listen to our Bible story about a young man and his brother. Listen to learn which brother did wrong by saying, "NO!" (Lay down the signs.)

Telling the story:

"Come on, boys. It is time for us to talk together." Adam and Eve were calling their two little sons. Cain and Abel ran to their mother and daddy, Eve and Adam. I think Adam said, "Let us all sit down. I want to tell you a story."

"Oh, boy, Dad," the boys said, "please tell us again the story about the beautiful place where you and Mom used to live."

So Adam told Cain and Abel: "God made the heavens, the sun, the moon, and the stars. God made the earth. God made all the animals and the birds and the fish. He made all the bugs. God made people. Actually it was God the Son who made everything. Where your mother and I lived," said Adam, "was the most beautiful place you can imagine. Life was perfect. You mother and I had everything that we wanted or needed. There was one part of our life that was better than any other. Every day, without fail, we were able to talk with God. God talked to us, and we talked to Him. That was wonderful!" This part of the story made Cain and Abel happy.

"Then one day something very bad happened," Adam said. "Your mother and I did wrong. God had told us not to eat fruit of a certain tree in the garden. We disobeyed God. We listened to Satan and did what he told us to do." At this part of the story, Cain and Abel always felt sad. "After we sinned," said Adam, "we were afraid to talk with God. God called to us, however. He wanted to talk with us. He wanted us to talk with Him. We had sinned, but God could do something about that sin," said Adam.

Adam said, "Cain and Abel, God took a lamb, a little baby sheep. There was a reason God got that little boy lamb. Let me tell you about the little baby sheep," Adam continued. "The little lamb was a perfect little lamb; he was healthy, and he had no sore places on him. God killed that lamb. God told me," Adam said, "from then on

there should be certain times when I was supposed to kill a lamb—a lamb was a sacrifice. When I would sacrifice a lamb, I would confess my sins and Eve's sins. That way we could once again talk with God, and God could talk with us."

Cain and Abel sat very quietly and listened while Adam was telling them this story. Adam said, "Cain and Abel, when you get to be grown men, you will want to bring a sacrifice to God. The only sacrifice that God will accept is a perfect animal which He has chosen. You must kill the animal so that blood can be spilled from the animal. Do not forget this, boys," said Adam their father. That was the end of the storytelling time again. Cain and Abel were glad that God loved them, and that He wanted their sins washed away.

Just like many, many, many other little boys since then, Cain and Abel grew and grew. They were not little boys any longer. They were teenagers. They got older and older. They were not teenagers any longer. They were men. Cain and Abel were grown-up. They each had their own jobs to do. Cain was a farmer. He plowed the ground, planted seed, and watched the crops grow. He weeded the fields. Then he gathered the wheat and the corn, the apples, the oranges—whatever he grew—into barns. Abel did not have a farm. Abel was a shepherd. He took care of many, many sheep. Both men were very busy about the jobs which they had to do.

Then one day it was time for them to bring their sacrifices. There was a big altar built of stones. Cain got ready to bring his sacrifice. Abel got ready to bring his. Abel looked over his sheep. He was looking for the best little lamb that he had. He found the little lamb that had no sores and was healthy—the best little lamb he had. He brought that little lamb to the altar. With his hands on the head of the little lamb, he told God about his sins. Then he took a knife and killed the little lamb. The blood spilled out onto the altar. God saw Abel's sacrifice. He was pleased with it. Abel had done the right thing. Cain brought his sacrifice. He went to his barn. He looked over all the food that he had grown. I think he chose some grain—some corn and some wheat—and maybe some fruit. He gathered them into a basket, probably, and brought them to the altar. He laid on the altar this food that he had grown. This was Cain's sacrifice.

God was not pleased with Cain's sacrifice. Let us see. God spoke. "Abel, I like your sacrifice. Cain, you did not bring the right sacrifice." Abel was happy with God's words. Cain was very unhappy.

"Why are you sad, Cain?" asked God. "Cain, you have done wrong, but there is still time for you to do right. At the door of your house is a little lamb. You may bring that sacrifice to Me; then I will be happy with your sacrifice."

I think that Cain stomped his foot. He said "NO!" (Hold up your signs so that NO can be seen by the children.) Cain was not sorry for the sin which he had committed!

(Put the sign NO behind the other two signs so that the sign reading SORRY can be seen.) Boys and girls, do you know what this word is? This word is SORRY. Cain could have said to God, "I am sorry for my sin, dear Lord," but he did not. If Cain had been sorry and had done what God had told him to do, then God would have been pleased with Cain. All Cain had to do was to say, "YES, dear Lord, I will obey You," and then obey God. (Show the third sign reading YES to the children.) What did Cain do? He just kept on thinking NO.

One day Abel was out in the field. Cain walked out into the field, and went up to Abel. Cain and Abel were talking together. Maybe Abel was trying to talk Cain into being sorry for his sins. Maybe Abel was explaining again to Cain what kind of sacrifice he should have brought. Suddenly, Cain raised his hand. He hit Abel! Abel fell to the ground. Cain stood looking at him. Abel did not move. In fact, Abel was not even breathing any longer. The blood was coming out of his body; Abel was dead. The real, living part of Abel went to Heaven. Cain could not see this living part of Abel go up to Heaven. Cain just saw that Abel was dead. Cain ran and got a shovel. He dug a hole, buried Abel in the hole, and shoveled the dirt back into the hole, on top of Abel's dead body.

God called to Cain. "Cain, where is your brother?"

Cain lied. He said, "How should I know? Am I supposed to watch my brother all the time?

God said, "Cain, your brother's blood is in the ground. I know about that. I know that you killed him. Now you shall be punished for the rest of your life." From then on Cain could not talk with God, and God could not talk with him. Cain would never say that he was sorry. (Show that sign.) All that Cain would say was NO. (Show that sign.)

That is the sad ending of our Bible story for today. But that is the story about two real brothers who really lived. One brother's life was happy and was pleasing to God. The other brother's life was terrible and was displeasing to God.

Which brother did right? Yes, Abel. Which brother did not please God? Yes, Cain did wrong and would not be sorry.

How is your life going to turn out? Whenever you do wrong, are you going to say you are sorry? Then are you going to say YES whenever you are told by Mother or Daddy or Teacher or God what to do? Let us bow our heads and pray about this. (Lead the children in prayer, praying that God will help them always to be sorry whenever they have sinned and to ask Jesus to forgive them.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Hebrews 9:22b, "Without shedding of blood is no remission."