



Preschool Ministry Curriculum for
June 5, 2016

Dear Teacher,

This week we begin our summer curriculum, which will follow the theme and preaching from the Sanctuary service. The whole summer we will look back at most of the characters we studied this past year. The point of each lesson will center on the journey each person was on and how they ultimately looked to Jesus “as the author and perfecter of their faith.”

This week we study the life of Abel. The story ends in tragedy, but not everything about it is sad. Abel was a righteous man who offered God his very best. The gift Abel gave cost Abel much, but he trusted God would take care of him.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Lesson: The Journey: Abel

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:4 and Genesis 4:1-14

Story: Vos Children’s Bible, Chapter 8; Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 8-9; The Beginner’s Bible, Pages 154-159.

Teaching Points:

- God’s promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps his promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God made a promise to one day send a deliverer, his name is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God’s Son.
- Adam and Eve through their disobedience brought sin into the world. Every person born in the world is sinful and in need of the deliverer, Jesus.
- People must trust that God’s Promise, Jesus, is what they truly need to know and love God.
- Adam and Eve had two children: Cain and Abel.
- Cain was a gardener and Abel was a shepherd.
- Cain and Abel offered gifts to God; Cain brought some fruit, and Abel brought the very best lamb from his flock.
- God looked upon Abel’s gift as acceptable, but God did not accept Cain’s offering.
- Abel offered his sacrifice in faith to God. Cain did not. Abel trusted God with his very best because he knew God deserved the very best he had.
- Because God rejected Cain’s offering, Cain became very angry. Cain ended up murdering his brother Abel.

Preschool Ministry – Morning Overview

For the Sunday Schedule, please see “Sunday Schedule for Preschool” found in Handbook on the teacher’s table.

First Hour

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5’s – 9:35am -10:00am (Classroom’s: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s/4’s –10:05am -10:30am (Classroom’s: 169, 168, 167, 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Creation Wheel

Supplies: White creation circle, white God the Creator outer circle, brad, crayons/markers

Instructions: Color creation pictures and God the Creator circle, use brad to attach God the Creator circle on top of creation circle.



Snack

Second Hour

Craft: Lamb Mask

Supplies: Paper plate, lamb ears, cotton balls, glue

Instructions: Glue ears to paper plate, glue cotton balls to plate



Story: The Journey: Abel

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, have you ever been on a journey or traveled somewhere far? (Allow kids to answer; some answers may not end up answering the question). Over the summer we are going to learn about many people who were on a journey. They looked to Jesus to guide them on their journey. Let’s find out about our first character...
3. **TELL** the Story. When applicable or desired, use the Vos Children’s Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner’s Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Singing

Scripture Memory

Catechism Questions (Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10)

Optional Activities

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What promise does God make to Adam and Eve?
- Who is the first child to be born?
- What does Cain do?
- Who is the second child to be born?
- What does Abel do?
- What do they bring to God as an offering?
- Which offering does God like?

Questions for Older Children:

- How does Abel show faith in God?

Scripture Memory for Summer:

2 and 3 year olds:

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus.” Hebrews 12:1-2

4 and 5 year olds:

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

Story

The Journey

This summer we begin a journey together. We won't actually go to a far land or country. We won't have to pack up our suitcases or food or get in a car or a plane. Nope, we will stay right here! This journey is special; it takes us into the Old Testament where we will get to see how people trusted in Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Our journey starts at the very beginning of the Bible in the book of Genesis. Let's find out who we see first on our journey.

Out of the Garden

If you remember, in the Garden of Eden God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But they disobeyed God and listened to the serpent. Once Adam and Eve ate the fruit, everything wrong, bad and sad came into the world – we call this sin. Sin ruined God's creation, and sin ruined the relationship between God and Adam and Eve.

God had to kick Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden; they could no longer live there. Before Adam and Eve left the Garden, God made a promise to them. One day God would send a Rescuer to save Adam and Eve; to save their children, their grandchildren, and well, the Rescuer would save everyone. Adam and Eve had to trust God and the promises he made. Adam and Eve were sure that God would keep his promise; they had something we call **faith**. Faith is trust, belief or confidence that something will really happen no matter what!

Boys and girls, who is the Promised Rescuer? (Jesus Christ) Right, Jesus Christ! Remember, every person on the journey looks to Jesus Christ. Jesus was the Promised One who would make everything good again, and every person on the journey believed this to be true even though Jesus would not be born for a very long time.

The first person we meet on our journey is Abel.

The First Son

After Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, life became very hard. They had to build a new home, and it was not easy. Building a new home proved to be a challenge because not everything worked or went right. Sometimes the roof would leak, bugs would sneak into the house, and their clothes would wear thin or tear. Adam and Eve wished many times they had never eaten the fruit. They regretted it many, many times. Adam worked to grow crops and boy was it hard just to get enough for he and Eve to eat each day.

Not long after they had built their new home, Adam and Eve had a son and named him Cain. Adam and Eve learned a lot about being parents very quickly and it was hard. There was no one to help them change diapers, feed the baby, or to help when Cain was crying. Adam and Eve were all alone. Cain began to grow, and then a baby brother, Abel, joined him. Adam and Eve loved Cain and Abel very much. They told Cain and Abel about God and the Promise of the Rescuer. Adam and Eve showed Cain and Abel how to grow crops, cook food, patch the roof, make new clothes and lots of other things.

As time went on, Cain and Abel discovered they liked to do certain chores to help out their parents. Abel, the younger son, loved to be with the sheep and to care for them. Abel would protect the sheep from other animals; he would guide the sheep to green pastures so they could eat, drink water and sleep. Abel loved being a shepherd. Cain, the older brother, loved different things. He loved the spring when he could plant seeds and then watch them grow. Cain picked weeds out of the garden so they would not choke out the vegetables and fruits. Cain loved the fall too. He could not wait to gather up crops from the plants and to see all the results of his hard work.

Cain and Abel did this for many years. Each loved their “job.”

The Gift

Years later and after seasons of becoming very good at their jobs, Cain and Abel brought gifts to God. These gifts were called offerings. Offerings are ways to show thanks to God for the things He gives. It also shows that a person can trust God with what they are giving to Him. Cain, because he was a great gardener, brought an offering of fruit. The Bible does not tell us what kind of fruit it was. Maybe berries, apples, melons and some plums?

After Cain presented his offering to God, Abel brought his offering. Remember Abel is a shepherd, and he brought a very precious and special gift. Abel decided to bring the very best lamb to God because he knew God was to get the very best.

God looked at Cain and Abel’s offerings. The Bible tells us that God liked Abel’s offering better than Cain’s. God could see that Abel gave the very best to Him, but Cain did not and God knew it.

The book of Hebrews in the New Testament says that Abel gave to God “a more acceptable gift” than Cain. Abel knew God deserved the very best he had. Abel might have thought, “God made everything, so I should give back to God what is really his.” Abel trusted that God would take care of him too. Abel depended on his sheep to feed him. Abel would get meat from the sheep as well as milk. This was important to have, but Abel knew giving to God the very best was more important.

The Bible tells us God praised Abel as blameless. Blameless means God looked at Abel as good and having a good relationship with Him. God knew that Abel trusted Him.

Sadness

Cain however was not happy, in fact he became very angry. Cain walked away from Abel and sat down in a corner. Cain crossed his arms and pouted (teacher demonstrate for children). Cain thought about how he worked so hard to grow the fruit. It was good fruit and he did not understand why God did not think it was better than Abel’s offering.

Abel tried to talk to Cain, but Cain yelled at him to “Go away!” Abel walked away and tended to his flock of sheep. Cain watched Abel and became more and more angry. God can see deep into our hearts, and he knows what we are feeling at all times. God visited Cain and asked him, “Why are you angry? Why this tantrum? Why the sulking? If you do well, won’t you be accepted? And if you don’t do well, sin is lying in wait for you, ready to pounce; it’s out to get you, you’ve got to master it.”

But Cain did not want to listen to God; he was still too angry. Cain had a very bad idea. Cain decided he would beat up his brother, Abel. Cain hid in his garden and then called out to Abel, “Abel! I need to talk to you! I’m in the garden, come here!” Abel heard Cain and decided to go talk to him. Abel entered the garden and said, “Cain? Where are you?” Cain replied, “Over here!” As Abel looked over, Cain hit Abel in the head with a big rock. Abel fell over and died.

The Bible tells us the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” But the Lord knew what happened. Cain spoke back to God, “I don’t know. It is not my job to keep up with him!” The Lord then said to Cain, “What have you done? You have hurt your brother and now he is dead!” “Your brother’s life was special. He was innocent. I know what you did Cain!” From that moment on Cain would run away from God. Cain was never sorry for what he had done to Abel.

But the Bible goes on to tell us that Abel’s life was a great example of what it means to have faith in God. Abel gave to God the very best because Abel trusted God.