

“The First Murder” - Genesis 4:1-15

Ask - “Have you ever known someone who was killed by another person? What happened?”

Background - After Adam and Eve sinned against God, they were expelled from the Garden of Eden. In time, they began having children of their own so as to populate the earth. Today’s lesson focuses on their first 2 sons.

“Two Sons” - Genesis 4:1-2

(v1) What did Adam and Eve name their firstborn son? What is the meaning of his name?

(v2) What did Adam and Eve name their second born son? What is the meaning of his name? How were the 2 sons different from each other?

ADAM AND EVE HAD 2 SONS NAMED CAIN AND ABEL. THE OLDER SON, CAIN, TILLED THE GROUND. THE YOUNGER SON, ABEL, KEPT FLOCKS.

“Different Offerings” - Genesis 4:3-8

(v3-5a) What type of offering did Cain bring to the Lord? What type of offering did Abel bring to the Lord? Whose offering did the Lord regard more and why?

(v5b-7) What was Cain’s reaction to the Lord’s disregard for his offering? What did the Lord ask him? What did the Lord warn him about?

(v8) What did Cain do to his brother Abel? Where did this take place?

CAIN BROUGHT AN OFFERING OF HIS PRODUCE, WHILE ABEL BROUGHT THE FIRSTFRUITS OF HIS FLOCK. WHEN THE LORD PREFERRED ABEL’S OFFERING, CAIN BECAME ANGRY AND MURDERED HIS BROTHER.

“Cain’s Punishment” - Genesis 4:9-15

(v9-10) When confronted by God, did Cain immediately admit what he’d done? What did he sarcastically say? Did God already know what had happened? What did He say?

(v11-12) What was God’s punishment upon Cain? How did this punishment fit the crime? What type of person would Cain become?

(v13-14) What was Cain’s reaction to the punishment he was to receive from God? What did Cain think would happen to him?

(v15) What did the Lord say regarding Cain's concern and what did He do to prevent it? How is a lifetime of punishment worse than a death sentence?

GOD PUNISHED CAIN FOR KILLING ABEL. HE MADE CAIN'S LABOR AS A FARMER UNFRUITFUL AND UNPRODUCTIVE. THUS, HE BECAME A VAGRANT AND WANDERER FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

Application - Adam and Eve's sons both brought an offering to God. Cain's was an ordinary portion of his produce, but Abel's was the first and best of his flock. God preferred Abel's sacrifice, which made Cain angry. Despite God's warning, Cain allowed his anger to fester into violence as he murdered his brother. God justly punished Cain for his sin. How would you measure the quality of your own sacrifices to the Lord? Do you expect Him to be satisfied with less than your best? Might your circumstances and hardships be, at least in part, the result of your own anger and/or sin?