



God is Merciful – Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-15

God Statement: God has a Plan

KEY VERSE: “The Lord Himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you.”
(Deuteronomy 31:8, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(Until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is Merciful

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God forgives!

SAY: What does it mean to show mercy? **Let kids respond.** Mercy is when we show compassion and forgiveness to others. Have you ever had to forgive someone else for doing something to you? Maybe a friend or a sibling? **Let kids respond.**

Who forgives us ALL the time? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** God forgives us constantly! We mess up every day, and God gives us grace and forgiveness. He shows us

Mercy! Today, we're going to learn how God showed mercy to some very special people. First, let's do this activity.

MAKE: Cane and Abel Booklet

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: one booklet per child, markers/crayons

Directions: Pass out one booklet per child. Have them color their booklets using the markers and crayons. As they color, take turns reading the pages. When finished have children get into pairs and take turns reading their booklets with one another.

SAY: Today we get to learn about something wonderful! We get to learn about mercy. I know that sometimes I make a mistake and I have to ask for forgiveness. When God forgives me, He shows me mercy. I am so excited to learn more about this today. Before we do, let's learn about our lesson by decorating this book! When you finish your booklet, you can take turns reading to one another.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***“The Lord Himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you.”
(Deuteronomy 31:8, NIRV)***

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- God is on the Move
- Egypt
- Closing: House of the Lord

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: *God is Merciful – Cain and Abel*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

DO: BE STILL & LISTEN

Supplies: none

SAY: Do you remember how we learned last week about Adam & Eve and the very first time someone sinned? What does sin mean again? ***Let kids respond – when we do something that goes against or disobeys God.*** Sin separates us from God. Well today, we learned about Cain, who made some bad choices and sinned against God too. He killed his own brother! That is definitely not what God wanted.

Even though Cain messed up so badly, God still showed mercy on him. Mercy means God did NOT give Cain what he really deserved as punishment. Instead, God kept Cain from being able to grow crops BUT God also promised to protect Cain from anyone who might try to harm him. God is merciful! Cain didn't deserve to be protected, but God showed mercy on him.

Did you know that God shows mercy on us too? We all make mistakes... right? We all sin, it's part of being human. Which means that NONE of us deserve God's love or forgiveness, but God loves us SO much that He shows mercy on us, not giving us what we do deserve, but instead forgiving us when we come to Him.

The greatest mercy of all was when God sent His Son. Who is God's Son? ***Let kids respond – Jesus!*** Jesus, God sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive us of all of our mistakes and sins and to give us a chance to have a relationship with God again! What amazing news that is!

If you've never taken that step to invite Jesus into your heart, we would love to talk to you more about that today! Grab a teacher or any of us leaders during the last worship song and we'd love to share about what that means more.

Take a moment and think about this last week. Think about the good parts and the bad parts. Now, ask yourself - "Do I need God's mercy for something I did this week?" We're going to sit in quiet for 2 minutes as we talk and listen to God. What is He trying to remind you of? What do you need to ask for help with?

DIRECTIONS: Encourage kids to sit quietly for 2 minutes. Even if a few get rowdy or it feels uncomfortable, allow this space for the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts.

Suggestion: have kids lay down or close their eyes prior to starting the quiet time to help eliminate distractions.

After a few minutes, gather everyone back together and ask if anyone wants to share what God was speaking to them.

SAY: God is merciful, and God loves us so much! I'm so glad He shows me love and mercy even when I don't deserve it.

Close time in prayer.

****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.****

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.****

OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

****After Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ACTs Feeding Families

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the PowerPoint to display important announcements.

ACTs Feeding Families

SAY: What is your favorite food? **Let kids respond** That sounds awesome! My favorite food is _____. How often do you get to enjoy your favorite food? A lot? Sometimes? Only as a special treat? **Pause.**

SAY: Did you know that even though you and I get to enjoy some of our very special treats, not all kids get to do the same? There are some kids who do not have the same access to food that we have. That's why we are partnering with ACTs Feeding Families to help the kids in our community who are in need of food. How do you think you help kids in need of food? **Let kids respond.** That's right! You can donate food each week AND pray for the families and kids who get the food.

Hold up a green Feeding Families bag or a food donation list.

SAY: You can take home one of these special green bags to help you remember to bring in food donations for Feeding Families. Grab one on your way out today!

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who receive food through Feeding Families.

*****After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.*****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you receive God's mercy for you today, knowing that God loves you so much He gave His Son for you!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (God is Merciful.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Genesis 4:1-15**
 - **Who was Cain and Abel's parents?** (Adam and Eve.)
 - **What offering did Cain give to God?** (Some of his crops.)
 - **What offering did Abel give to God?** (The best portions of meat from his lambs.)
3. **Cain was jealous. He was jealous of his brother. He was jealous that God was most pleased with his brothers offering. Cain's heart was filled with jealousy. Jealousy is not from God. He does not want us to be filled with jealousy, but instead be filled with gratitude (thankfulness). This week as you go throughout your day pay close attention to your feelings. If you are feeling jealous because your sibling got something you didn't, or your friend got a toy you really wanted how can you turn your heart from jealousy to gratitude?** (As a group take a couple of minutes and brainstorm how we can have a heart of gratitude. Some examples could be focusing on what God is doing in your life, praying, being happy for the other person.)

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (God is Merciful.)
2. **Re-read and Recap today's story: Genesis 4:1-15**
 - **Who was Cain and Abel's parents?** (Adam and Eve.)
 - **What offering did Cain give to God?** (Some of his crops.)
 - **What offering did Abel give to God?** (The best portions of meat from his lambs.)
3. **As a group re-read Genesis 4:1-5. Cain and Abel both gave offerings to God. Abel gave the best of his meats as an offering, and Cain gave his produce as an offering. Abel gave his best to God and God saw that. But Cain did not give his best to God. And this made Cain jealous that God was pleased with Abel. Cain acted in his jealousy and did something to hurt his brother. But God showed mercy to Cain. What does it mean to give God our best?** (As a class take a couple of minutes talking about what it means to give God your best.)
4. **Cain was jealous. He was jealous of his brother. He was jealous that God was most pleased with his brother's offering. Cain's heart was filled with jealousy. Jealousy is not from God. He does not want us to be filled with jealousy, but instead be filled with gratitude (thankfulness). This week as you go throughout your day pay close attention to your feelings. If you are feeling jealous because your sibling got something you didn't, or your friend got a toy you really wanted how can you turn your heart from jealousy to gratitude?** (As a group take a couple of minutes and brainstorm how we can have a heart of gratitude. Some examples could be focusing on what God is doing in your life, praying, being happy for the other person.)

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Does it Please God, Smile Frown Game

Supplies: laminated smile and frown

Directions: place the frown on one side of the room and the smile at the other. As you read the statements below, have children run to the smile if it is something that pleases God and to the frown if it is not.

SAY: Today we learned that God is merciful. He forgives us when we do wrong things and wants us to do good things to show others his love and goodness. Let's see if you can find the different things that please God! If it something that pleases God, run to the smiley face. If it something that would not please God, run to the frown!

1. Helping your friend back up when they fall (smile)
2. Pushing your sibling or another child because you are mad at them (frown)
3. Yelling at your mom, dad, or grownup when you are mad (frown)
4. Giving a card to someone who is sick to tell them you hope they feel better (smile)
5. Kicking someone else because they got something you wanted (frown)
6. Doing your chores without complaining, even if you really don't want to (smile)
7. Sharing with others about Jesus and how He loves them! (smile)

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.