



## 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.*

### **WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES**

***Worship Leader & Host***

#### **WORSHIP**

*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!*

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

#### **TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:**

- Child of Love
- Your Love

### **LARGE GROUP RULES**

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

*\*\*\* After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. \*\*\**

## MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

### Host

#### MAIL TIME!

*Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.*

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

*\*\*\*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)***

## WARDROBE OF WONDER

*The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.*

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

### What’s It: Sheep

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. Retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

**SAY:** What do you guys see? It’s a sheep! We definitely have seen sheep in our wardrobe before. Sheep play a very important role in the Bible. And a sheep is in our bible story today! Sometimes when we read about people in the Bible, we learn that they have a job taking care of sheep or animals. Seeing this sheep makes me think that we are going to learn about someone whose job was to take care of the sheep and the other animals. So, let’s dive in and learn more!

*\*\*\* After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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!

Let's take a few moments and listen to God as we think about the amazing truth of His love for us!

**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 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 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.*