

GENESIS

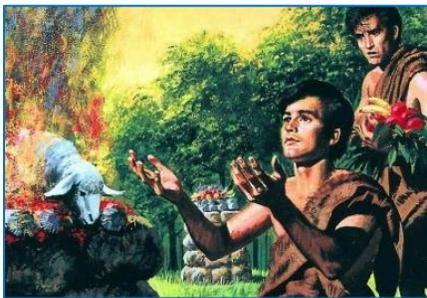
PART 2: CAIN AND ABEL—WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE?

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A. LESSON GOALS

1. To examine Cain and Abel's offerings and explore why one was accepted, and why one was rejected.
2. To see how this account relates to our offering of things to God today.

B. SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 4:3-8



"In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering-- fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. ⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is

crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." ⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him." (Gen. 4:3-8 NIV)

C. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What differences do you see between Cain and Abel's offerings?
2. How do these differences reveal the likely sincerities behind them?
3. What possible connection do you see between Abel's offering and Genesis 3:21?

4. According to Hebrews 11:4, 6, why did God accept Abel's offering, but not Cain's?
5. What advice would you have given to Cain just after his offering was rejected?
6. Just as Cain and Abel offered things up to God, what can Christians today offer up to God?

D. SEVEN NEW TESTAMENT GIVING PRINCIPLES

1. New Testament giving is based on _____, not on _____ (1 Cor. 16:2).
2. New Testament giving means _____ a portion of your income in order to support the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-3).
3. New Testament giving is to be managed through _____
4. New Testament giving encourages churches with plenty to _____ (2 Cor. 8:13-14).
5. New Testament Christians are to _____ (2 Cor. 8:7).
6. New Testament giving is to be _____ (2 Cor. 9:7).
7. New Testament giving is to be _____ (2 Cor. 8:1-3).

E. APPLICATION

1. Consider your own offerings. Are they like Cain's or Abel's?
2. Does your budget include an offering to the Lord?
3. What specific actions would you like to take based on this lesson of Cain and Abel?