

Lesson 28

-In The Beginning- Abel Pleases God

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2-5 Years:

Opening prayer to start the class. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen”

Bible Story:

Tell the story of Abel in a language that this age can understand. Be sure that it is a simplified version, the verse selection is Genesis 4: 1-4. There are several picture versions in children’s Bibles that are appropriate.

Genesis
4: 1-4

Discussion: What we give to God.

Abel made God happy because he gave his best animals to God. What are some things that you can do to make God happy? Is God happy when you do something nice for someone else?

Song: If you're happy and you know it,
clap your hands (clap, clap)
If you're happy and you know it,
clap your hands (clap, clap)
If you're happy and you know it,
then your face will surely show it.
If you're happy and you know it,
clap your hands.



Verses: If you're happy and you know it,
stomp your feet (stomp stomp)
If you're happy and you know it,
shout hooray (hoo-ray)

Activity:

From magazines or other appropriate materials, have students cut out pictures of people doing something pleasing to God. It should be everyday items- wearing a bike helmet for safety, sharing a toy, giving a hug, etc. Have each student glue the pictures onto a piece of construction paper to make a collage.

Closing Prayer: thanking God for the day. For example:

“Thank you God for bringing us together today to learn about how we can make you happy. Thank you for making us. Help us to follow you ways this week. Amen”

6-8 years

Opening prayer: Start the class by praying together. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen”

Bible Story:

Tell the story of Abel in a language that this age can understand. Be sure that it is a simplified version, the verse selection is Genesis 4: 1-4. There are several picture versions in children’s Bibles that are appropriate but not necessary. Paraphrasing a version of the Bible you feel comfortable with is fine.



Activity:

Write out the Bible verses on a piece of paper, cutting the sentences apart. (If you paraphrased, write the sentences that you spoke and cut them into strips). As a class, or in smaller groups, ask the students to order the verses correctly.

Discussion: What we give to God.

Abel made God happy because he gave his best animals to God. What are some things that you can do to make God happy? Is God happy when you do something nice for someone else?

Activity: what we can give to God

Give the students a piece of paper and have them brainstorm things that they could do to please God. (share a toy, help a neighbor, clean their room, listen to mom and dad, etc.) When completed, have each share their ideas with the class.

Closing Prayer: thanking God for making us. For example:

“Thank you God for bringing us together today to learn about how you made the world and all that is in it. Thank you for making us. Help us to follow you ways this week. Amen”

9-11 Years:

Opening prayer: Start the class by praying together. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen”

Bible Story:

Read the story of Abel from the Bible or go around the room having each student read a section. (Genesis 4: 1-7)



Discussion: about why God was pleased with Abel, but not Cain

Both men gave God something, why was God only happy with Abel’s offering? Is it more important what you give to God, or how you are giving it? (Abel gave to God first, and willingly.)

Activity:

Write verse 4 with several blanks for the students to fill in and make copies. Challenge the students to fill in the blanks without using the Bible first.

Game:

On index cards, write out things that children of this age could do as an offering to God (sing in church, visit a nursing home, vacuum the house, etc.). Hide the index cards in the room before class starts. Explain to the students that they are going to search for the treasure that they can give to God, and inform them of the number of hidden cards. Set a timer, and let them search. When the treasure hunt has ended, share with the class the offerings listed on the cards and challenge them to do at least one this week.

Closing Prayer: thanking God for making us. For example:

“Thank you God for bringing us together today to learn about how you made the world and all that is in it. Thank you for making us. Help us to follow you ways this week. Amen”

12-14 Years:

Opening prayer: Start the class by praying together. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen”

Bible Reading:

Read the story of Abel from the Bible or go around the room having each student read a section. (Genesis 4: 1-7)



Discussion: about why God was pleased with Abel, but not Cain

Both men gave God something, why was God only happy with Abel's offering? Is it more important what you give to God, or how you are giving it? (Abel gave to God first, and willingly.)

Activity:

Write verse 4 with several blanks for the students to fill in and make copies. Challenge the students to fill in the blanks without using the Bible first.

Game: crossword puzzle

Make copies of the following puzzle and clues for each student. Don't give them the answers that follow!

Answers:

Across:

2. older

5. flocks

6. angry

8. fat portion

Down:

1. soil

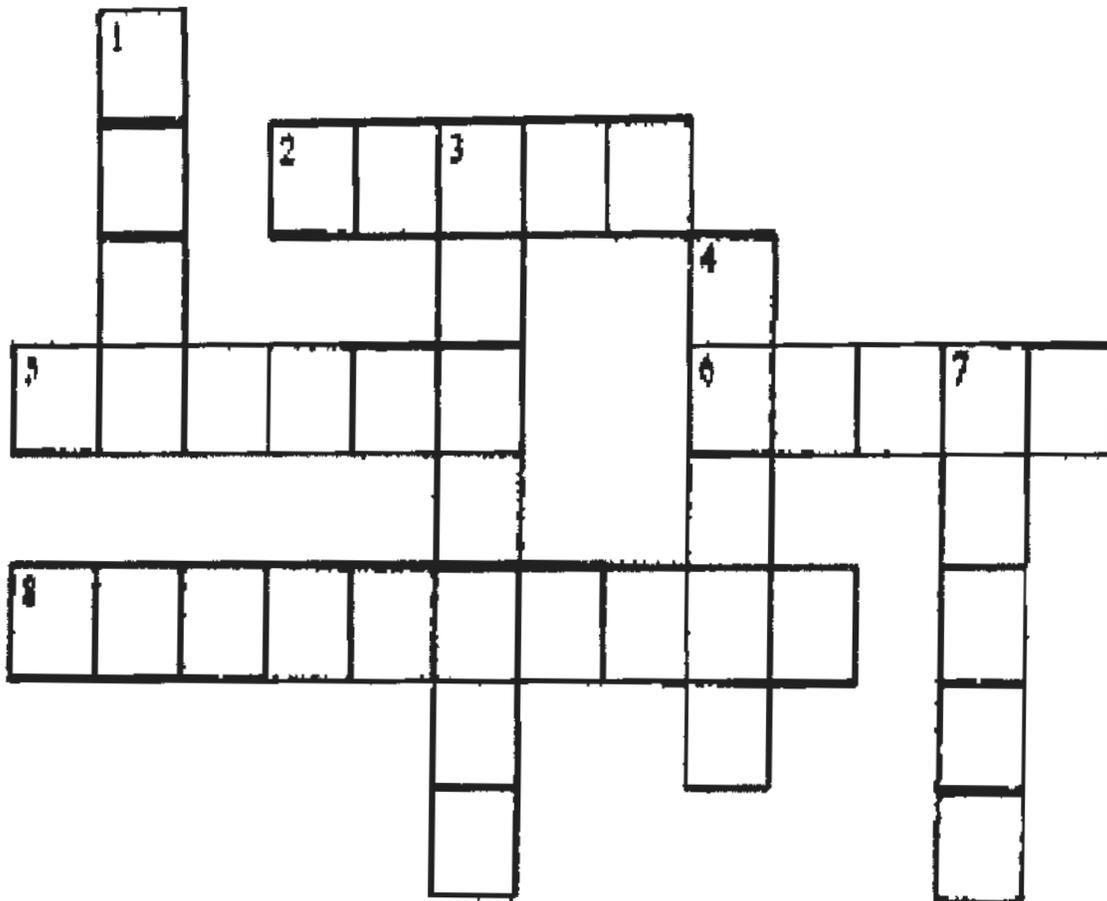
3. desires

4. favor

7. right

Closing Prayer: Thanking God for making us. For example:

“Thank you God for bringing us together today to learn about how you made the world and all that is in it. Thank you for making us. Help us to follow you ways this week. Amen”



ACROSS

- 2 Cain was _____ than Abel. (verse 1)
- 5 Abel kept _____. (verse 2)
- 6 Cain was _____. (verse 5)
- 8 Abel offered the _____ of the first born. (verse 4)

DOWN

- 1 Cain worked the _____. (verse 2)
- 3 It (sin) _____ to have you. (verse 7)
- 4 The Lord looked with _____ on Abel and his offering. (verse 4)
- 7 Do what is _____. (verse 7)