

Offering of Cain and Abel

Aim:

- Obey what God has commanded us to do in the Bible to the best of our abilities.
- When we come before God, we should give God the most of our time and attention when we worship, pray, and do all things.
- We should present ourselves, our bodies, and even our lives to God in a good manner that we can in our circumstances.

Teacher's Preparation

Have lots of wooden blocks for the children to play with. Tell the children that they must obey one rule if they want to play with the blocks and that rule is "No throwing blocks." As the children build walk around and ask them to explain what it is their building, praise them for doing their best work. Be excited and involved with the various building projects.

After the children have played with the blocks for a few minutes, ask them the following questions:

1. Why do you think I had the rule "No throwing blocks"? (*This rule was made to protect them and the room.*)
2. What might have happened if someone broke the rule and threw the blocks? (*Someone may have gotten hurt if they got hit by a flying block. The room may have gotten damaged, a nick in the wall or a broken window.*)
3. What should happen to a person who threw blocks? (*They could be punished with a time out and not allowed to play with the blocks.*)



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Genesis 4:3-7 (NRSV)

3 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."

Student Introduction

God is an amazing loving God and we learned this in our previous lessons. Today we are talking about offering God our best. Because God loves us so much and because He even sent His Son to the earth to die on the cross for us, we should be very grateful to God and give Him our best! How do you think God would feel if we grumbled about going to church or worshipping him? God wants us to come to Him and worship Him with all of our heart, mind, and soul. He wants us to obey His commands in the Bible so we can be more like Him and offer him the best that we can.



Main Ideas

God loved both Cain and Abel.

Just as God loved Cain and Abel, He also loves us no matter what we look like or our talents. God loves us just the way we are. He wants to have a relationship with us each and every day.

Both Cain and Abel brought an offering to God.

Cain and Abel obeyed God by bringing an offering to God. Obedience is very important in Christian life. The Bible helps us understand how we should live our life and we should obey what God tell us just as Cain and Abel obeyed by bringing offerings as God requested.

Abel brought the best of the animal sacrifice to God as he was told, but Cain did not obey God and brought regular fruit and not the first of the fruits or the best to God.

Sometimes in life, we do things, but not with our whole life. God wants our best and for us to do things with our whole heart. We are sometimes like Cain and we get lazy or don't obey our parents because we want to do what we want to. When we have this kind of attitude, it is not bringing God our best. We are encouraged to be more like Abel and to bring our best to help others and to let others know about God.



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When we do something for God, we should do it to the best of our abilities.

In our school for learning and in our house to help our parents and obey them and even in our churches, it is important to give God our best and all of our abilities, gifts, and talents. We should share these with God and God's children.

Activities

Have a poster board with the words "Our Best" and "Half Effort" with a line down the middle. Use sticky notes with the following scenarios written on them. Next, have the children examine and determine which category the scenario belongs to, and place the notes on the board. Have them do this in a group. Second, give them two sticky notes and have the students write two scenarios from their life when they gave their best effort and half effort.

Scenarios:

- *My mom woke me up for church and I quickly got up and got dressed without making my family late.*
- *While in church worship service, my friend and I played games and whispered loudly to each other.*
- *My dad gave me \$1 for offertory, but I saved it in my pocket so I can buy a piece of candy later that day.*
- *For Christmas this year I gave away one of my toys that I got as a gift to an orphanage.*
- *It was Saturday night and I was really tired so I didn't memorize my memory verse and told my teacher I learned the wrong memory verse.*

Feel free to add more of your own scenarios for your students to go through. At the end, review with the students how we could change the "Half Effort" scenarios into "Our Best". Discuss why this is so important to God.

Lesson Review

- Cain and Abel were asked to bring the best of their work to God as an _____.
- Abel brought the best firstborn _____ to God and obeyed what God asked him to do.
- Cain unfortunately had a bad attitude and did not bring God the best of his _____ and God was not happy.
- We should _____ God and do everything in our life to the best of our abilities so that God is glorified.

Values For Life

God loves each of us so much and we should offer ourselves to Him in the best way we can. We can do this by worshipping him, singing Christian songs to Him, and even helping and loving others. We must not grumble, but do things to the best of our ability for God. When we are children of God others will see God's love in us and they will come to know God also!

My Decision

- I will try my best to give God my best in everything that I do!
- I will treat everyone fairly and with respect just as I would like to be treated.
- I will choose to obey God in every part of my life

Memory Verse

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14

Closing Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for blessing us with so much and for giving us the Bible to learn from you. Help us to remember that when we do anything for you God, we should do our best. When we come to church to worship you, help us to be obedient to you and help others and love others to the best of our abilities. Thank you for loving us so much. Amen.