

Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

Cain's jealousy leads to tragedy

Abel had already chosen the finest animal from his flock when he came to get his brother. Today was a holiday and there would be none of the regular chores. He was surprised to find Cain working out in the field.

"Looking for something extra special for our annual presentation to God?" asked Abel.

Cain looked up sullenly. "You're going to sacrifice your best lamb?"

"If God hadn't blessed my work," Abel said, "I wouldn't have been successful. Father told me that everything good comes from God. It's only right to give something back."

"I've sweated long hours over my crops," grumbled Cain. "Do you think this soil would have produced anything without my breaking my back?"

Cain seemed to be angry all of the time lately, but Abel overlooked it. "You've done a good job of it."

Cain hastily grabbed a few sparse gleanings from the huge pile of vegetables he had harvested. When he saw Abel's expression, he said, "What does it matter anyway? We're just going to burn it up."

The two brothers walked along in



Illustrations by Kathy Weich

uneasy silence up the mountain where each of them would present his gift to God. Abel went first and he would have lingered if Cain hadn't shouted from behind him.

"Come on, hurry up, Abel! I've got work to do when we get back."

As Cain presented his offering, Abel hoped that whatever was bothering him would float away like the smoke that was rising from his sacrifice. But when Cain turned around, he was still scowling.

"I come here only to have my offering rejected by God! Let's go, I've had enough."

Cain sulked all of the way home, but when Abel turned to leave, he suddenly brightened, saying, "Why

don't you help me choose another gift?"

"These are the best peaches you've ever had, Cain," Abel pointed out. "How about some of these?"

"Go ahead, pick some for me," Cain said gruffly.

As Abel did so, Cain took the biggest rock he could lift and struck down his own brother. Without another thought, he left Abel's lifeless body lying in the field.

That same day, Cain heard God clearly speaking to him. "Where is Abel?" the Lord asked.

"How should I know? Am I supposed to take care of him?" asked Cain.

"I warned you about the bad feelings in your heart," the Lord replied, "and I gave you a chance to make things right. No longer will this soil produce anything for you. For the rest of your life, you will wander as a fugitive."

Read More About It: Genesis, Chapter 4:3-12.

Q & A

1. Why wasn't God pleased with Cain's offering?
2. Was God's punishment of Cain too harsh?

The Bible Times

1405 B.C.

Moab-Moses, leader of the Hebrew people for 40 years, has retired.

Speaking yesterday on a mountaintop overlooking the Promised Land, Moses recalled for the huge crowd all that God had done for them since freeing them from slavery in Egypt.

After his speech, Moses presented the Ten Commandments, engraved on stone tablets, to the priests, who placed them in the Ark of the Covenant for safekeeping. Moses then read to the assembly for several hours from the five books he had written about the history of the human race.

The audience was stunned when Moses revealed that the first death in the world occurred by unnatural causes. Abel, son of Adam and Eve, was murdered by his older brother, Cain. After that terrible crime, God banished Cain forever. Cain became a fugitive wanderer.

"For this reason," Moses said, "choose to love God and one another and live in peace. Obey the covenant which you have made with God to be his special people. You will inherit the Promised Land and live a long and good life."

Congratulations to Justin Poplawski, a sixth-grade student at St. Pius Tenth School. He is the winner of a \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the August Kids' Club Contest. His essay is reprinted below.

August Essay Question: What situations exist today in which you might be made fun of for doing what you think is right? How would you handle it?

Last year some of my friends and I rode our bikes to school. After school they wanted to go to the store to buy candy so I asked my mom if I could but she said no. I went to my bike, got on and told the guys I couldn't. One told me to go because my mom would never find out. I just told them I couldn't and started to ride home. They were good friends so they didn't laugh or make fun of me. But if they did I would have just ignored them!

Talking to God

King Solomon's Wisdom



Dear God,

Help me to control my feelings of jealousy and anger. Even when I'm right, I know it is better to forgive than to seek revenge.

"Don't let the sun go down on your anger."

Ephesians 4:26

"It is better to have self-control than to control an army. Jealousy is more dangerous and cruel than anger."

Proverbs 16:32; 27:4

Brothers & Sisters

Name the siblings using the clues and Bible books below. Then find their names in the Word Search. Names may run in any direction. Answers on p. ?

1. Cain had 2 brothers. Abel & _____ (Genesis)
2. Noah had 3 sons. Shem, Japheth & _____ (Genesis)
3. Isaac & Rebecca had twin sons. _____ & _____ (Genesis)
4. Sister of Moses & Aaron. _____ (Exodus)
5. Peter's brother & fishing partner. _____ (Matthew)
6. Two sons of Zebedee who became apostles. _____ & _____ (Matthew)
7. Brother of Martha & Mary. _____ (John)

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Kids' Club

Win a \$50.00 Savings Bond! When God asked Cain about Abel's whereabouts, he said: "Am I supposed to take care of him?" Are you supposed to take care of others or just be responsible for yourself?

Write an answer of 100 or fewer words. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. The winner will be notified by phone; the essay will be printed in an upcoming edition of Kids' Chronicle. Send your entry to: Cindy Bassett, c/o Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Deadline for entries is September 24, 1992.



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