



UNIT 2 | SESSION 2

## SIN SPREAD TO PEOPLE

GENESIS 4-5

### KEY PASSAGE:

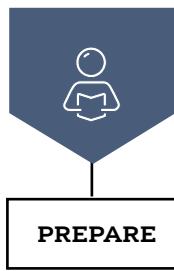
Romans 3:23

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Adam and Eve's sin and its consequences spread to all of their descendants. But God did not forget His promise to send a Rescuer. At just the right time, God would send His Son to save sinners.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

Siblings often fight and compete as children and even adults. It may be over something as innocent as who gets the last cookie or as serious as who inherits their parents' prized heirloom.

The competition Cain felt toward Abel—the world's first siblings—reminds us that these family tensions can cause great damage to our relationships with one another, with parents, and even with God.

In the story of Cain and Abel, we find a progressing pattern of jealousy, which led to hatred, which led to murder. The result was not one but two lost sons for Adam and Eve.

God's disregard of Cain's offering stirred an intense jealousy and anger within Cain. Cain raged not only because his offering was rejected by God, but also because his brother's offering was accepted by the Lord. Cain's jealousy led him into a pit of misdirected hatred of Abel, ultimately leading him to murder his brother. The consequence of sin—death—that God had warned Adam and Eve about had come to fruition.

Jealousy never produces anything godly in us. And why is that? It's primarily because jealousy is nothing more than proof that we have staked our identity on what we have done or can do, rather than on what God has done for us through Christ.

When you are tempted to compare yourself to others, let that trigger a reminder of who you are in Christ.

Second Corinthians 5:17 tells us that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." As a child of God, our identity is not dependent upon what we do, but instead upon what Christ has done to save us through His life, death, and resurrection. Rather than living in the comparison between ourselves and others, let's live in the confidence that we have been made new. In Christ, we are fully loved and accepted.

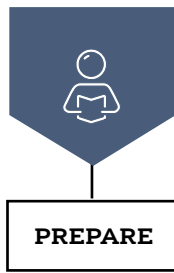
Fight the temptation to compare. Fight the urge to compete with others before God. And trust in the finished work of Christ. For you are not your own; you were bought with a price. And that price is one you can never repay.

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

**Cain:** Adam and Eve's first son. He killed his brother Abel.

**Abel:** Adam and Eve's second son. His name means "breath" or "vapor."

**Seth:** Adam and Eve's third son. He was an ancestor of Jesus.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

### Activity Page

- “What Does It Mean?” activity page

### Session Starter (Option 1)

- cotton balls
- bowls, 2

### Session Starter (Option 2)

- soft caramels
- microwave safe bowl
- water
- spoon
- onion
- craft stick
- waxed paper
- knife (leader use)



LEARN

### Introduce the Session

- countdown video

### Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

### Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

### Tell the Bible Story

- “Sin Spread to People” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

### Questions from Kids

- “Unit 2, Session 2” questions from kids video

### Missions Moment

- Printable: “Jim and Elisabeth Elliot Photo”

### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “For All Have Sinned (Romans 3:23)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

### Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map



LIVE

### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- craft sticks or plastic straws
- yarn

### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- dominoes

### Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- “Considering Consequences” activity page



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Can you think of a time someone else got something you wanted? How did you feel? Were you happy for the other person, or were you jealous?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What Does It Mean?” on the activity page. Kids will use the code to answer the big picture question.

**SAY** “**What does it mean to sin?** When you think about sin, you might think about wrong things that people do. The Bible says that sin is more than just doing what is wrong. **To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.** We will hear more about that in today’s Bible story.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: OFFERING TOSS



Form two teams to stand in single-file lines. Give each player one cotton ball, and position a bowl across from each team.

When you say “go,” players should take turns tossing a cotton ball toward the bowl. The team that lands the most cotton balls in its bowl wins. Play a few rounds as time allows.

Point out that the cotton balls look like sheep—white and fluffy.

**SAY** “In today’s Bible story, we’ll hear about two brothers who brought offerings to God. An offering is a gift given to God. One brother brought some of his produce, and the other brought sheep from his flock. God accepted one of the offerings but not the other. Let’s find out why.”

#### OPTION 2: CARAMEL COVERED ONION



Prior to the session, prepare a caramel covered onion. Peel an onion and insert a craft stick into the top. Mix 3 to 4 ounces of caramels with ½ tablespoon of water in a microwave safe bowl. Heat the caramels about 2 minutes until they are melted. Stir well. Then dip the onion into the caramel and cover it completely. Refrigerate the onion until caramel is firm, about 1 hour.

Display the caramel treat for the kids. Ask if any of them like caramel apples. Invite kids to shout out words that describe caramel apples (sweet, sticky, delicious, and so on). Then use a knife to carefully cut off a section, revealing the onion inside.

**SAY** “Would any of you eat a caramel onion? As we will see in today’s Bible story, sometimes what looks good on the outside can be hard and bitter inside. This onion can actually teach us about our hearts. We’ll see how.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Hey, everyone! I am so glad you are here. If you brought your Bible today, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. We can look at the world around us and see that creation is not perfect and good as God created it to be. Sin has affected everything. We’ll see today how sin spread beyond Adam and Eve. ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

**SAY** “ Last time, we heard our new big picture question. Do you remember what it is? **What does it mean to sin?** Here’s the answer: **To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.**

Sin is not just a problem with our behavior; it’s a problem with our hearts. Remember these three ways our desires lead us away from God: in what we think [point to head], in how we speak [point to lips], and in how we behave [hold out hands]. **What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.** Keep that in mind when you hear today’s Bible story. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ Last time, we heard how sin entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned. God had created people for His glory. He loved the first people He made, and He provided everything they needed. But their sin separated them from God, and He sent them out of the garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve left the garden with a promise: God said that one of Eve’s descendants would put an end to sin and death. Then Adam and Eve started a family. Their first two sons were named Cain and Abel. Did one of them put an end to sin and death? No. In today’s Bible story, we’ll hear how sin spread from Adam and Eve to Cain and Abel and to all people. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story

#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 4–5. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Sin Spread to People.” Use the bolded text to retell or review the story.

#### SIN SPREAD TO PEOPLE

“Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Abel grew up and became a shepherd, and Cain worked the ground like a farmer to grow crops.

**One day, Cain gave God an offering of some of the produce he grew. Abel gave God some of the firstborn of his flock. God accepted Abel’s offering, but He did not accept Cain’s offering.**

**Cain was furious.** “Why are you so angry?” God asked. “If you do what is right, won’t you be accepted?” God warned Cain that sin was crouching at the door. “Sin wants to control you,” God said. “But you must control it.”

Then **Cain invited Abel to go out into the field. While they were in the field, Cain killed his brother.**

**Then God asked Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”**

**“I don’t know,” said Cain. “Is it my job to look after him?”**

**But God knew what had happened.** He said to Cain, “What have you done?”

**God punished Cain.** God told Cain that if he tried to work the ground, nothing would grow for him. **God said Cain would spend the rest of his life wandering the earth.** He would not have a home or anywhere to rest.

“This punishment is too much!” Cain said. “You are sending me away from this land and away from You. If I have to wander the earth, whoever finds me will kill me!”

So **God put a mark on Cain to protect him so that whoever found him would not kill him. Then Cain left the land** and went to live in Nod, a land to the east of Eden. **He had a wife and a family, but they did not follow God.**

**God gave Adam and Eve another son, Seth.** Adam and Eve’s family grew. **Seth grew up and had a family too. Around this time, Adam’s descendants in Seth’s family began to call on the name of the Lord.**

Christ Connection: Adam and Eve’s sin and its consequences spread to all of their descendants. But God did not forget His promise to send a Rescuer. At just the right time, God would send His Son to save sinners. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Display figures:** Show two figures to represent Cain and Abel. Help kids distinguish between the brothers by pointing to the Cain figure when telling about him and the Abel figure when telling about him.

**Use lighting effects:** Dim the lights to convey the seriousness of sin in the story.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “Wow. Once sin entered the world, it spread! Sin didn’t affect other people just a little bit; it affected them completely.

Adam and Eve had probably been so happy to see new life come into the world when their sons were born. Maybe Eve wondered if Cain or Abel might be the One God promised would put an end to sin and death. Is that what happened? Did Cain and Abel obey God perfectly and save the world from sin? No, Cain and Abel were sinners too.

Why didn’t God accept Cain and his offering? The problem wasn’t in what Cain offered; something was wrong with Cain himself. Look at Genesis 4:7. [**Choose a volunteer to read aloud Gen. 4:7.**] Now look at Hebrews 11:4. [**Choose a volunteer to read aloud Heb. 11:4.**] God accepted Abel’s offering because he offered it in faith. God doesn’t care only about what we do; He cares about our hearts.

Remember our big picture question: **What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.** Cain’s heart was full of jealousy and anger. God warned Cain that sin wanted to control him. God told him to be careful and to resist the temptation to sin. But Cain acted out of jealousy and anger, and he killed his brother. Sin leads to death.

So God judged Cain and made him wander the earth. Cain deserved to be punished, but God was kind to him anyway. God also showed grace to Cain by giving him a mark of protection.

When we look around us and see brokenness in the world—shame, conflict, poverty, and so on—we must understand that the problem is not just outside of ourselves. These are consequences of the sin inside of us all. We can’t just try to be good people and make the world better because we need to be rescued from ourselves. ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to give Eve a descendant who would put an end to the curse of sin. Adam and Eve’s sin and its consequences spread to all of their descendants. Cain rebelled and Abel was killed. God hates sin, but He loves people. God did not forget His promise to send a Rescuer. Adam and Eve had another son: Seth. God’s promise would come through Seth’s family thousands of years later. At just the right time, God would provide the way out of sin by sending His Son to save sinners. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 2, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Is it ever OK to lie?
2. Why do you think telling the truth is so important to God?



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “ Sin spread to all people, but God is still at work to remake what has been broken. God uses missionaries to tell people the good news about Jesus. ”

Show the photo of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot. Remind kids that they were missionaries.

**SAY** “ One day when Jim Elliot and his friends were trying to get to know the people in the Amazon, something very sad happened. The people were afraid of Jim and the missionary team, and they killed all five men. Elisabeth and the other wives were so sad, but do you know what they did? They forgave the people who killed their husbands and they kept trying to find ways to teach the Waorani about Jesus. Many people became Christians because missionaries like Elisabeth chose to love instead of being angry. ”

Point out that Jim and Elisabeth knew the bad news: everyone has sinned, and sin separates us from God. They dedicated their lives to telling others the good news: God kept His promise to send a Rescuer. At just the right time, God sent His Son to save sinners.

Pray and thank God for the Elliots’ ministry in the Amazon. Also pray for missionaries your church supports.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Romans 3:23 together.

Form two teams of kids and lead them to stand across from each other. Each team will stand shoulder to shoulder.

Show the key passage poster. Instruct the first team to say the first word of the passage, the second team to say the second word, the first team to say the third word, and so forth until kids say the entire passage.

Challenge the teams to see how quickly they can say the key passage. As kids master the verse, cover the poster.

**SAY** “ All have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. We saw that in the garden of Eden, in the field with Cain and Abel, and in the world around us. Praise God for showing us undeserved kindness in Jesus. ”

Lead kids to sing “For All Have Sinned (Romans 3:23).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

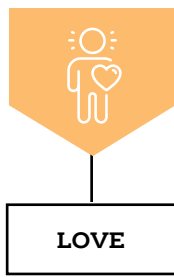
Invite kids to pray before transitioning from **LEARN** to **LOVE**.

**SAY** “ Lord God, the world is broken by sin. It’s all around us and in our own hearts. We need You. Thank You for loving us and sending Jesus to rescue us from death and give us life. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 4. Explain that after Cain killed Abel, Cain went out east of Eden. Remind kids that we don't know exactly where the garden of Eden was located. Point to the region in the bottom right corner of the map, and explain that some people think it may have been in that area.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Iraq.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 4:7.

**SAY** “ Before Cain killed Abel, God warned Cain to watch out for sin. Sin is like a lion waiting to pounce. Sin wants to control us, and the Bible says that sin leads to death. Jesus came to free us from sin. He changes our hearts so we can live for Him. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “ What does the story of Cain and Abel show about sin and people? ”

Guide kids to discuss how sin spread from Adam and Eve to their children. Adam and Eve's disbelief of God's words led to their disobedience in eating the forbidden fruit. Sin was in Cain's heart, and out of his jealousy he killed his brother. Sin spread to people, and we all experience its consequences. Our hope is not that the next generation will do a better job at obeying; our hope is found only in Jesus who obeyed for us.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:12.)

**SAY** “ Why is it sometimes hard for people to get along? ”

Remind kids that Cain's sin separated him from God and people. Sin not only hurts our relationship with God, it hurts our relationships with others. Sin often comes from pride—thinking you are the best. Jesus demonstrated a better way of living and loving by putting others first.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 4:8.)

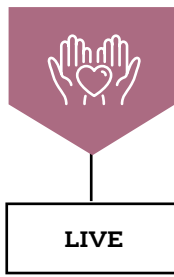
**SAY** “ What should we do when we sin? ”

Guide kids to discuss how to seek forgiveness with God and with other people. We can repent—turn from our sin and turn back to God. We can confess our wrongdoing and ask forgiveness. Prompt kids to think of someone who might feel hurt by something they did. Encourage kids to seek forgiveness this week. Discuss how kids may need to make right what was wrong. For example, if they broke a friend's toy, they may need to replace it.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 3:13.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: MAKE A HUT



**SAY** “ When missionaries go deep into the jungle, they might have to make their own shelter using whatever they can find in the jungle. Jim Elliot and his friends made a tree house and a cooking hut to use when they went into the jungle. It wasn’t always comfortable, but missionaries are willing to do what they need to do in order to share Jesus. ”

Invite kids to work in pairs or small groups and make a small model of a hut or house using craft sticks or plastic straws, yarn, scissors, tape or glue, and any other materials you provide. As they work, remind them that God might ask them to go one day to another place, maybe even stay in a handmade hut, to tell people about Jesus.

Give kids time to show their huts to one another. Ask kids to explain why God wants Christians to tell others about Jesus.

##### OPTION 2: REACTION REACH



Provide dominoes and challenge kids to arrange them on end about an inch apart so knocking over one will cause the rest to fall in turn. You may add a challenge to increase difficulty:

1. Form a spiral with dominoes.
2. Arrange dominoes to go around an obstacle like a ball or chair.
3. Set up dominoes to branch and then come back together.

**SAY** “ Sin entered the world through one man—Adam—and no one could stop it. Sin and death spread to Adam and Eve’s children and their families. Cain’s sin separated him from God and people. Sin and death have spread to us even today. Everyone has sinned. Our sin separates us from God and from each other, but God had a plan to bring people back to Himself. He sent His Son, Jesus, to save sinners. ”

#### 2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, asking God to make kids aware of sin and give them power to resist it. Thank Him for keeping His promise to send Jesus, who rescues sinners. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Considering Consequences” on the activity page.