

LESSON 2 – THE FIRST CHILDREN ON THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE

Genesis 4:1-16

THEME: To show that without faith it is impossible to please God.

Can you guess what is the most wonderful gift that God can give to a home? No, not a new house...nor a vehicle...but a baby! No one but God can make this wonderful gift and only He can give it.

As we travel along *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE* we will see many babies, but in this lesson we are going to think about the very first children born into this world. You see, Adam and Eve never were babies because God created them as man and woman.

After Adam and Even had sinned, they were driven out from the Garden of Eden where God had placed them. They had to begin a new life. Genesis 3:23-24. One day there came into the new home God's most wonderful gift: a baby. Eve said, "I have gotten a man child with the help of the Lord." Genesis 4:1. Perhaps she thought the baby was the One promised in Genesis 3:15, the One who was to conquer satan. The first son was named Cain.

Afterwards another boy was born and this one was being called Abel. Now there are two children on *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE*.

Do you remember the verse from the Lesson 1: "There is a way that seems right to a man..."? Which way do you think these two boys will choose? Adam and Eve showed their sons the way of the blood sacrifice by which faith /obedience to God was proved. No new laws were placed upon these boys as there had been upon Adam and Eve. The only requirement was that they worship God in the way He had appointed.

Abel became a shepherd, a keeper of sheep, while Cain became a farmer, a tiller of the soil. The time came when each boy became old enough to make his own choice of the way in which he would go. This time comes to each of us. Our parents cannot make this choice for us as much as they might like to.

Cain probably thought, "See this beautiful fruit from the ground. I have worked hard to cultivate this and surely God will be pleased with my offering." He placed fruit of the ground on an altar. Was God pleased with the works of the hands of Adam and Eve? No, not with their fig leaf covering. Such offerings the Bible calls *works*.



Source: Sweet Publishing - for illustration purposes of Genesis 4:3-4 only

Abel, on the other hand, took one of his lambs, killed it and placed it upon the altar as an offering to God. He had brought a blood sacrifice as God had shown with Adam and Eve.

Were Cain and Abel sinners? Yes. They were born as sinner and they were still sinners. Then what happened? God accepted Abel's offering but He did not accept the offering of Cain. Cain became very angry and killed his brother Abel. Was God pleased with this first murder in the world? No. god punished Cain by sending him away from his home to wander in other lands because of this wicked thing he had done. Genesis 4:6-16. These two boys were brought up in the same home and were taught the same truths. The difference was that Abel believed, had faith in what he was taught, while Cain did not have faith in what he was taught. Their actions showed what was in their hearts.

Unbelief is a terrible thing. It led to anger, deceit, murder, lying and finally to the terrible punishment of separation. Genesis 4:8-12. Belief/faith brought peace and **righteousness to Abel; and God says that though Abel is dead, he still speaks. Hebrews 11:4.**

God also says:

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

Whether we live here in the dispensation of Grace on the chart, or in any other dispensation, *FAITH* is necessary in order to be accepted by God. God saw Abel’s sacrifice, and through that shed blood He saw the Lord Jesus Christ, the true Lamb chosen before the foundation of the world. 1 Peter 1:19-20. Today we do not show our faith by bringing a lamb to an altar; instead we come to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ and trust Him as our Saviour.

Once again we have seen the truth of the verse: “There is a way that seems right...” One son took the right way and one took the wrong way on *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE*. The Bible says that many went in Cain’s way. Jude 11. They are the ones who are departing from God. They are the ones depending upon their own works to save them. But nothing we do with our hands or our bodies can bring salvation to us.

Today if we want to prove our faith, we come to the Lord Jesus and tell Him: I believe You died for my sins, were buried and rose on the third day. I thank you for the sacrifice and I believe that You give me Your wonderful righteousness because You have promised.

MEMORY VERSE: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those that seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

LESSON 2 – WORK SHEET

1. Write the names of the first two children on *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE*.
Genesis 4:1-2 _____ and _____
2. What kind of work did Abel do? Genesis 4:2 _____
3. What kind of work did Cain do? Genesis 4:2 _____
4. Why was God not pleased with the offering Cain brought? Hebrews 11:6

5. Why was God pleased with the offering Abel brought? Hebrews 11:4

6. Why was Abel's offering better than Cain's one? Hebrews 9:22

7. Abel proved his faith by the offering which he brought and he obtained witness from God that he was _____ Hebrews 11:4.
8. Abel's offering was an example of the _____
_____ John 1:29.
9. Today we receive righteousness by believing _____

_____ 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
10. Write Hebrews 11:6

