



CAIN & ABEL

GENESIS 4:1-16

GOAL

▶ To help children understand that sin is bad, and love is important. The story of Cain and Abel emphasizes the importance of loving and worshiping God, while highlighting the dangers of anger and jealousy. Scripture uses the example of Cain as a warning for all believers (1 John 3:12).

GOSPEL HIGHLIGHT

▶ In Hebrews 11:4, we are told that Abel brought to God an offering by faith and was accepted, while Cain did not and was rejected. Later in Hebrews 11:6, we are told "without faith, it is impossible to please God." To be accepted by God, we must place our faith in His Son, Jesus Christ and His finished work upon the cross.

CHARACTERS

▶ **Cain:** Cain was a farmer and the oldest son of Adam and Eve. Cain is remembered as the world's first murderer, killing his brother out of jealousy. Cain rejected God's warnings and received God's judgement.

Abel: Abel was the second son of Adam and Eve and Cain's younger brother. Abel was a shepherd, remembered for bringing God a pleasing sacrifice from his flock. Jesus referred to Abel as the first martyr in Matthew 23:35.

WORDS TO KNOW

▶ **Murder:** The unlawful and unjustified taking of another human life. Man was originally created to live in harmony with their creator and each other. With sin, this harmony was disrupted and murder entered into the human story. Jesus taught that murder was more than a physical act, but a condition of the human heart (Matthew 5:21-26).

Jealousy: The act of becoming envious of another person because of something they have and we do not. In 1 Corinthians 13:4, we are told that true love does not envy. Jealousy ultimately shows that we are not content with what God has given us.



MEMORY
VERSE

▶ **1 John 4:19:** We love because He first loved us.

MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING

▶ **Read Genesis 4:1-16:** Explain that God is the One who teaches us how to love. Ask children for practical ways in which they can love other people. Then, explain that love is doing. Ask the question again, "What can you do to show people that you love them?" If they have trouble, you may wish to point out specific people whom they can love, such as parents, a lonely child at their school, and siblings.

OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Genesis 4:1-16:** Sometime after Adam and Eve sinned and were commanded to leave Eden, they began to have children. Their first two children were Cain, a farmer, and Abel, a shepherd. When the time came to bring their offerings to God, Cain brought fruit from the ground while Abel brought a firstborn from his flock. God accepted Abel's offering because it was made in faith (Hebrews 11:4), but He rejected Cain's offering. This rejection fueled the jealousy and anger that had taken root in Cain's heart, leading Cain to murder his brother, Abel.

Later, God confronted Cain about Abel's murder, to which Cain responded with the famous line, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God swiftly pronounced judgement upon Cain, saying that he would no longer be a farmer, but one cursed to wander.

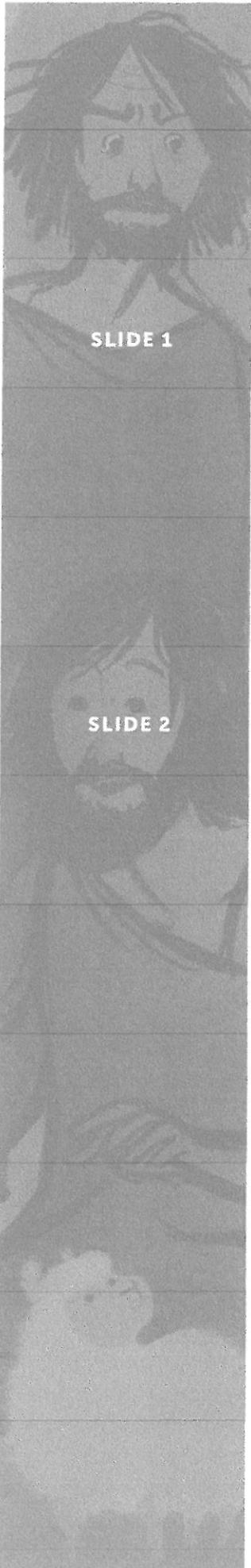
SUGGESTIONS

▶ The story of Cain and Abel can be confusing, even for lifetime students of the Bible. The point of the story is not sibling rivalry or laws against murder. The point is that God is just, and He desires that people love Him. Cain didn't love Him, and God knew that. Cain showed his disinterest in God when his offering didn't contain the best of what he had.

To help children grasp God's love, emphasize how God did not kill Cain, even though Cain was a murderer. Instead, He protected him from harm. God punishes sin, but even in His punishment, He is just.

Children who have brothers or sisters may understand the feeling of sibling rivalry. Opening the lesson with this concept will help them to pay attention, and understand the seriousness of their own antagonistic feelings towards a sibling.

A major application of this lesson is that God cares little for a show of religion. He cares about the heart. There is a danger in teaching children to be rule-keepers without being God-lovers.



SLIDE 1



QUESTION & ANSWER



Q1a: What were the names of Adam and Eve's sons?

A1: Adam and Eve were parents to Cain and Abel.

Q1b: Do you have any brother or sisters?

TN: Siblings can be a lot of fun, but sometimes they can be difficult to get along with. Even when we are mad at them, they are family, and we love them. It is important to remember that we are family and we should always be there for each other.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What did Cain and Abel like to do?

A2: Cain became a farmer and Abel became a shepherd.

Q2b: Can you be friends with people who only like the same things as you?

TN: That would get boring after awhile. People with different interests help us to expand our knowledge and view of the world. Having things in common is the starting place of friendship, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't be friends. Cain and Abel liked different things, but surely they had things in common.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What did Abel give to God as a sacrifice?

A3: Abel gave God his best sheep as a sacrifice.

Q3b: For your birthday, your friend gives you a video game she doesn't like anymore. Is this a good gift?

TN: Well, it depends. If you showed interest in the game, then it's not bad. If she knew you didn't like the game either, but didn't want to come to your birthday party empty handed, so she wrapped up something she didn't care about, then it's not a good gift. Sometimes all that we have to offer doesn't seem like much, but what matters more than the actual present is where our heart is when we decide to give it. When we give to God, we should be happy to give it, and it should be the best that we can give. God wants us to be cheerful givers. Giving to God shows that we are grateful for all that He gives to us.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did Cain do to Abel?

A4: Cain killed Abel.

Q4b: If you accidentally broke something in a store that has video cameras, do you think they would find out what you did?

TN: It's on video, so yes, the staff would be able to determine that we broke the item. They have video cameras in the store so they can see just those sorts of things happen. God is with us all the time, so He knows everything that we do and say. Deeper still, God knows our hearts, so He knows our feelings and thoughts about ourselves and others. With God, we cannot hide from our actions, and we cannot deceive Him.



1 John 4:19: We love because He first loved us.

We should give God our best and we should give it with a happy heart because we love Him.

God, thank You for Your love. Help us to love others as You love us. Help our love for You to be real, and not just for show. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

CAIN & ABEL

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANSWER KEY

Across

3. Cain became a **(Farmer)**.
4. God put a special **(Mark)** on Cain, so he would not be punished by anyone else.
6. When God asked Cain about his brother, Cain **(Lied)** to God.
8. God promised Eve she would have her own what? **(Children)**
9. Her second son's name was **(Abel)**.
10. Eve gave birth to a son named Cain. He was her **(First)** born son.

Down

1. God **(Cursed)** Cain, so he would no longer be able to farm as a punishment for what he did.
2. Abel became a **(Shepherd)**.
5. What did Cain decide to do to his brother? **(Kill)**
7. Cain was **(Jealous)** of his brother Abel.

Was it Cain or Abel? Genesis 4:1-16



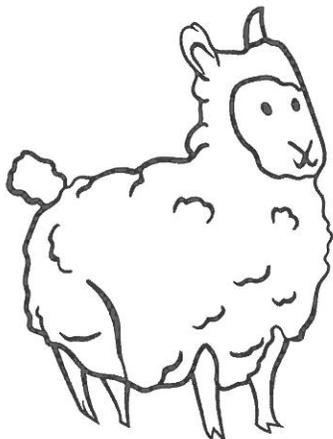
Complete the Dot to Dot puzzle, write the name of each brother over his head, and color the picture. Then draw a line from each characteristic below to the correct brother.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Farmer | Shepherd | First son of Adam & Eve | |
| Fruits & Vegetables | Sheep | Murderer | Lied to God |
| Second son of Adam & Eve | | Worshipped God from the heart | |
| Jealous | Gave God his best | Banished by God | |

CAIN & ABEL

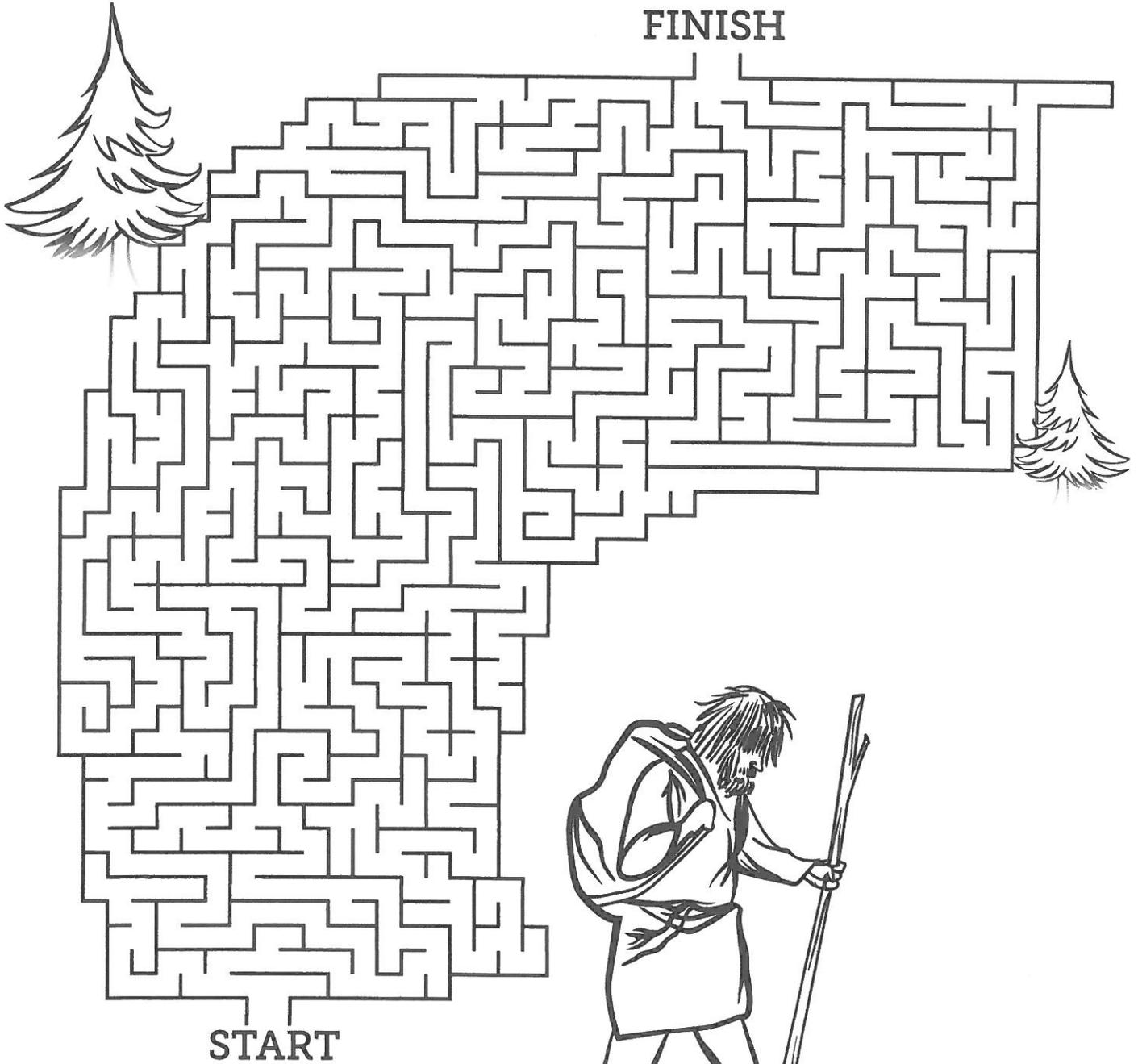
1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.



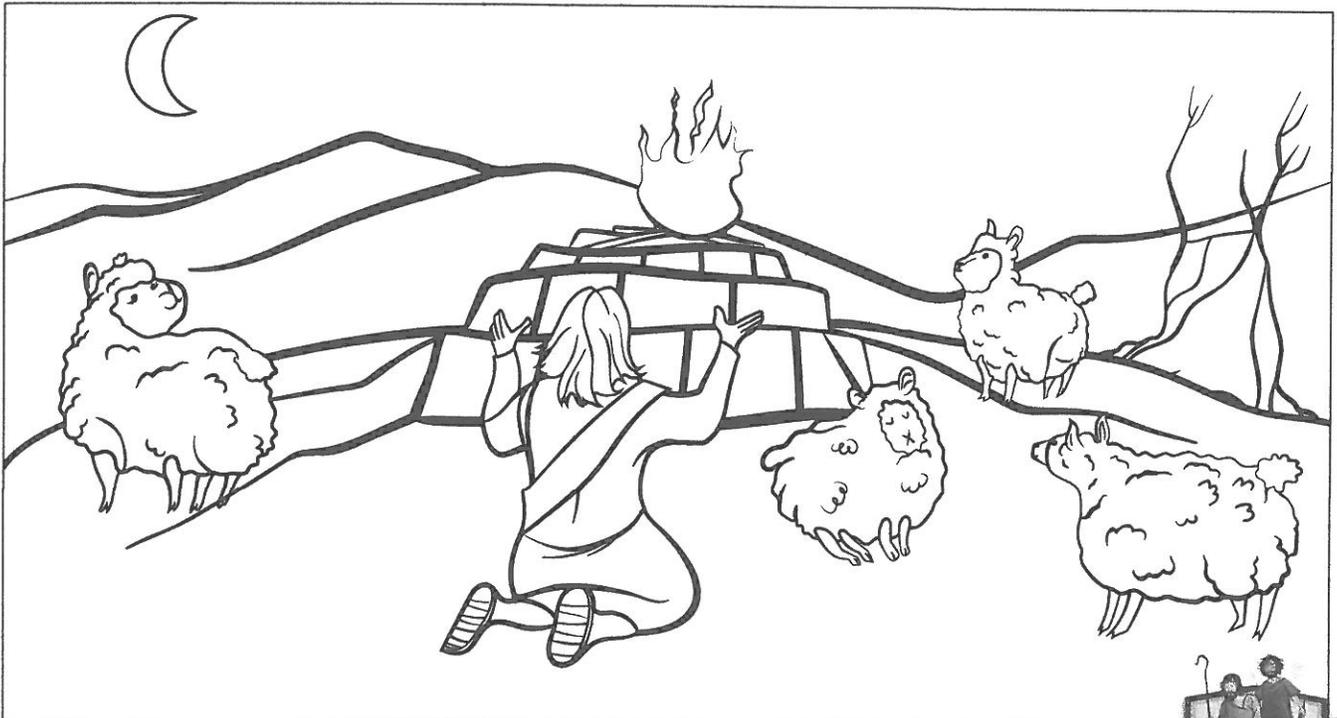
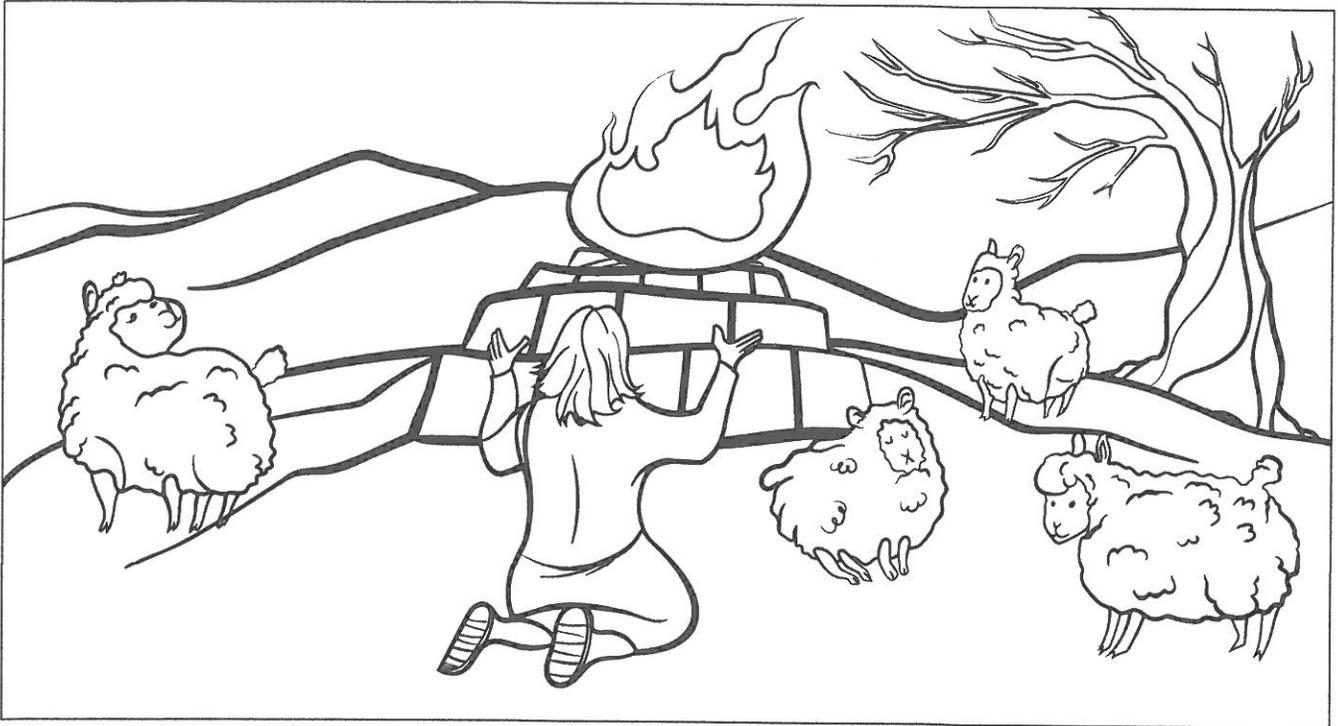
CAIN & ABEL

Guide Cain to the land of Nod



CAIN & ABEL

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.





CAIN & ABEL



Discover the hidden words.

S	O	N	F	T	V	R	G	E	V	A	X	M	E	U
Q	W	N	C	P	U	M	F	E	E	Q	Q	J	I	C
C	H	J	N	A	H	C	B	V	Q	R	O	Y	G	U
U	E	I	B	R	W	F	M	L	I	E	S	M	H	R
K	I	L	L	A	Z	F	I	E	P	G	T	T	T	S
E	T	S	U	P	D	S	D	W	Q	I	Y	N	K	E
C	K	F	Z	N	D	J	H	T	R	Q	E	D	K	M
T	W	O	A	S	T	T	E	E	R	V	Q	E	M	M
M	N	T	N	R	M	G	H	A	P	U	N	N	U	Y
A	B	E	L	Q	M	S	J	S	L	H	O	T	W	C
N	V	S	Q	C	E	E	E	V	E	O	E	F	H	S
J	V	E	D	T	A	I	R	Q	E	F	U	R	I	G
Z	Q	S	B	X	M	I	R	H	A	I	H	S	D	O
B	R	A	W	R	I	R	N	J	O	C	J	B	Y	D
P	U	N	I	S	H	M	E	N	T	F	I	R	S	T

Word Bank

FARMER

CAIN

ABEL

LIES

CURSE

PUNISHMENT

KILL

JEALOUSY

SHEPHERD

SON

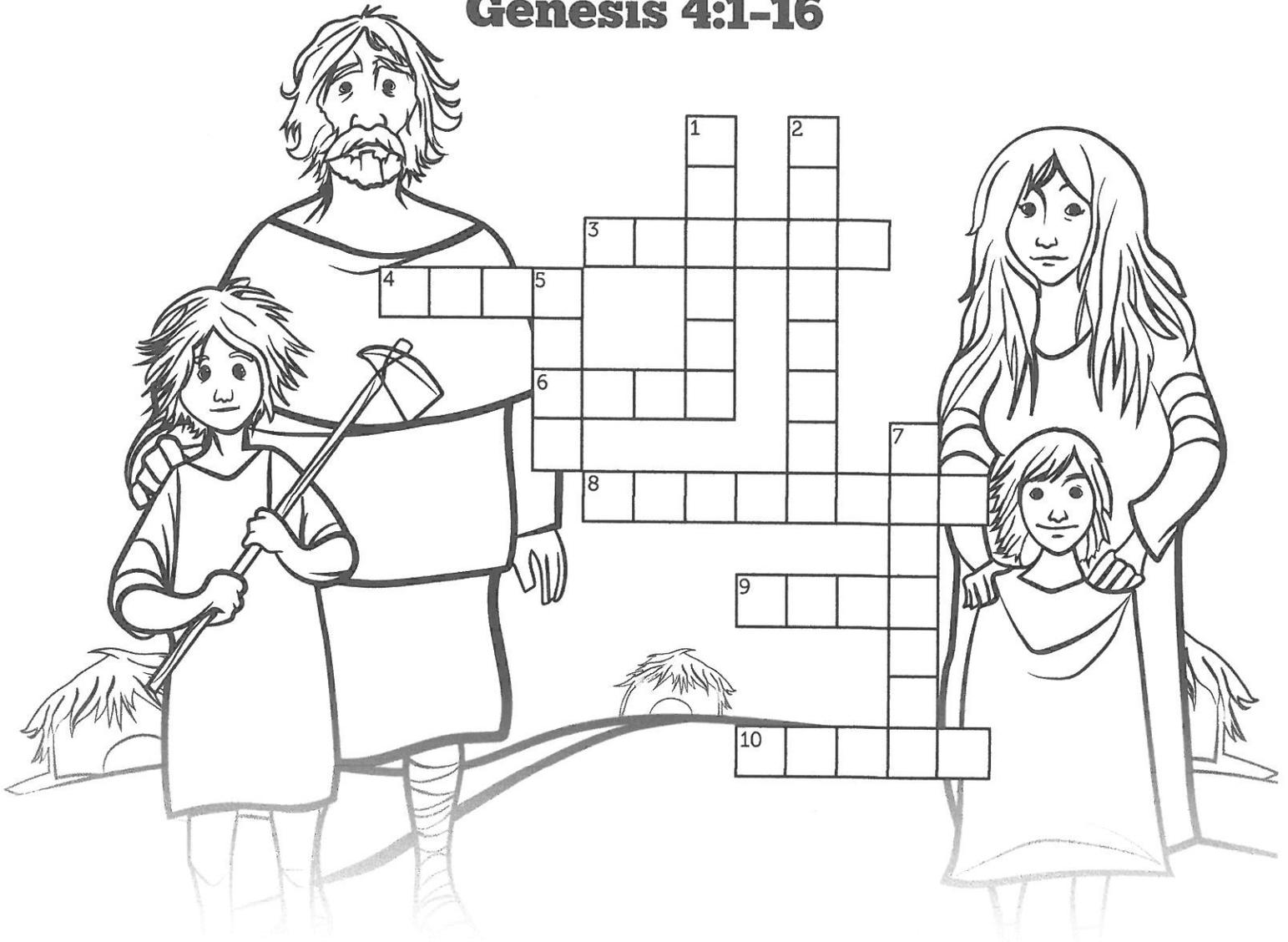
GOD

FIRST



CAIN & ABEL

Genesis 4:1-16



Across

- Cain became a _____.
- God put a special _____ on Cain, so he would not be punished by anyone else.
- When God asked Cain about his brother, Cain _____ to God.
- God promised Eve she would have her own what?
- Her second son's name was _____.
- Eve gave birth to a son named Cain. He was her _____ born son.

Down

- God _____ Cain, so he would no longer be able to farm as a punishment for what he did.
- Abel became a _____.
- What did Cain decide to do to his brother?
- Cain was _____ of his brother Abel.

