

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CAIN AND ABEL: TWO DIFFERENT OFFERINGS

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)*

### Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	By faith, Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice to God than Cain. Despite the consequences of his actions, Cain did not learn, but was upset at both God and Abel.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is omniscient and just.
<i>Good Works</i>	Be filled with God’s word and Spirit to resist sin. Examine our heart to see if we are submissive to God’s teachings. Develop a heart of truth.

### A. Two Different Offerings

**Burnt Offering:** Based on Mosaic Law, we can conclude that a firstborn is the Lord’s and holy, and that when the fat is burned, it is “a sweet aroma to the LORD” (cf. Lev 17:6; 3:1–5).

**Grain Offering:** Cain’s offering, like Abel’s, was from the fruit of his labor. Unlike his brother’s, Cain’s was more like the grain offering described in Leviticus 2:1. The two offerings were quite different, but the key difference lay not in the physical offerings, but in the brothers’ hearts.

### B. Cain’s Offering (Gen 4:3–5; Heb 11:4)

Cain’s token offering reflected his incorrect thoughts, so the Lord did not respect it. It is clear that God is ultimately more concerned with the intention in our hearts when we offer to Him (Jer 17:9–10). While people can only see our physical actions, God can see into our hearts.

### C. Cain’s Anger (Gen 4:6–7)

Anger can produce evil thoughts and lure us into doing what is contrary to God’s teachings. It is powerful enough to lead us astray. God gave Cain a second chance to do what was right (Gen 4:6–7), but Cain instead let his anger take control and did not heed God’s warnings.

### D. Cain’s Sin (Gen 4:8; 1 Jn 3:12)

Anger, when handled poorly, can be incredibly destructive. It can turn into hatred, and the Bible says that a person who “hates his brother is a murderer” (1 Jn 3:15). This same anger drove Cain to murder Abel, with complete disregard for God’s loving care and instruction. He allowed himself to be fully controlled by it. Later, despite God’s omniscience, He asked Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” (Gen 4:9). But Cain’s reply showed no remorse, and he wasted the third chance God gave him to repent.

### E. Cain’s Punishment (Gen 4:11–16)

From Cain’s reaction to his punishment, we can see that he was not sorry for what he did. In fact, he thought God was being unfair. His words reflected his unrepentant heart, and he did not learn the lesson that God was trying to teach him. Unlike Cain, we need to learn to resist sin and fear God so that we will never be driven from His presence.

### Life Application

1. *Don’t Become a Victim of Sin:* As humans, we are weak and prone to giving up. We cannot overcome sin on our own. But the Holy Spirit gives us the power and strength to rule over sin.
2. *Diligently Guard Our Hearts:* We need to train ourselves to control what goes in and out of our hearts. If we do not change our hearts to follow God, our desires can lead us into sin.
3. *A Heart of Truth:* Sometimes there is a gap between our actions and our hearts (Mt 15:8).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 4 Homework Assignment

### Cain and Abel: Two Different Offerings

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Psalm 51:10):

---

---

---

1. Why do we need a clean heart “created” in us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. “The sacrifice of the \_\_\_\_\_ is an \_\_\_\_\_; how much more when he brings it with \_\_\_\_\_!” (Proverbs 21:27)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. God told Cain to rule over sin and its desire. What does this mean to us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What can we learn from Abel’s offering and Cain’s offering?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In what areas do you need to be submissive to God’s calling?