



Lesson 3

1st-4th

CAIN AND ABEL

September 19 & 20

**GOD IS
MERCIFUL**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. When they brought offerings to God, He accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's. In his anger, Cain killed his brother. God judged Cain for his sin but still showed him mercy by protecting him, giving him the chance to choose what was right, and continuing His plan to save people.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that God is a merciful God - this means He shows kindness and compassion even when we deserve punishment.

Full Story: Genesis 4:1-15

Key Passage: Genesis 4:6-7

KEY VERSE:



"The Lord himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you. So don't be afraid. Don't lose hope."

Deuteronomy 31:8, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

FOCUS: City Serve

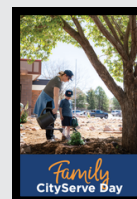
WHAT IS CITY SERVE?

City Serve is a special day when people all over our city work together to help others! We serve at schools, parks, neighborhoods and local organizations by cleaning, fixing, helping and caring for our community. It's a great way to show God's love by serving others!

PRAY FOR CITY SERVE!

Pray that lots of people will choose to serve and that everyone who is helped will feel God's love and care.

TAKE IT HOME! Take home an info card and ask your family to sign up for a project you can serve at together!



Serve the Church



Serve the City



Serve the World

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:

Ruby Robinson's Jungle Adventure

5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.



SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! Look up the Bible passage in your Bible or a classroom Bible and mark it with a sticky note. Then, find a classroom activity to do until we begin Explore time.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God is Merciful!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.



SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first! *Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.*

Today, we are learning how **God is Merciful**. This story comes from the Bible in **Genesis 4:6-7**. Let's open our Bibles so we can read it together. *Read passage.*



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Introduce the Big 3 questions and answers to give kids a preview of the key ideas they should watch and listen for during the Bible lesson.



SAY:

Listen closely as I share the BIG 3 questions AND answers for today's lesson! Then, let's all look for those answers in our Bible time!

1

ASK: Who is our story about today?

ANSWER: God, Cain, Abel, and us.

2

ASK: What is the problem?

ANSWER: Cain became very upset when the Lord did not accept his offering, and chose to kill his brother, Abel.

3

ASK: What will God do?

ANSWER: God was upset with Cain, but showed him mercy and gave him a chance to do the right thing!

Encourage kids to listen and watch for the answers to these questions during the Bible lesson!





MAKE: God's Mercy Craft!

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Heart Coloring page, coloring utensils, tissue paper, glue sticks



SAY:

God shows us mercy when we sin! When we disobey God or make a wrong choice, we deserve a consequence for our sin. But God loves us and shows us mercy by offering us forgiveness instead.

The greatest way God showed us mercy was by sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Our sin deserves death, but Jesus took the punishment we deserved so we can be forgiven and have life with God. That's mercy!



DO:

- Pass out one coloring page and coloring utensils to each child
- Have kids draw or write something inside the heart that represents sin
 - Examples: being mean, disobeying, lying, etc.
- Give kids pieces of tissue paper and glue
- Tell them to cover the drawing completely with the tissue paper by gluing pieces over the entire heart (yes, it will cover the words/drawings they just added to the heart - that's intentional!)
- Remind kids that just like the tissue paper covers their drawing, God shows us mercy by forgiving our sin because of Jesus!



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



God is Merciful!

Mercy: choosing to show kindness and forgiveness to someone when you have the power to punish or be mean to them



But God loves us and shows us mercy. He doesn't give us the punishment our sin deserves. Instead, He made a way to forgive us - He sent Jesus!

6:25-6:50pm
9:25-9:50am
11:25-11:50am

LARGE GROUP OVERVIEW

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow closer to God through participating in worship, a Bible story and Worship Response.

OPENING LARGE GROUP



INTRODUCTION

Welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.

► 4 B'S (BEHAVIORS)

Share the expectations for how to participate during Large Group time.

► KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse. Kids can watch the Key Verse video (when it's new for the series) or practice together using the slide.

► MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

► PRAY FOR MISSION FOCUS & LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.

PERSONAL REFLECTION



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet personal reflection time of responding to what God is teaching them.

CLOSING LARGE GROUP



PRAYER

Transition from Worship Response by praying over the kids.



OFFERING

Highlight the opportunity to give back to God through our offering.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids to send them into their week with God's truth in their hearts.

OPENING LARGE GROUP SCRIPT



INTRODUCTION

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Does anyone know our God statement for today? (*allow kids to respond*) **God Statement!** I'm so excited to dig into that with you but before we do, let's cover our 4 B's of how we're expected to participate during Large Group!

4 BEHAVIORS OF LARGE GROUP

- **Be Ready** – Eyes watching and ears listening.
- **Be Respectful** – Listen when others are talking and follow directions.
- **Be Safe** – Keep your hands, feet and body in your own space.
- **Be Involved** – Sing, answer, move and join in!

KEY VERSE - Deuteronomy 31:8

Let's recite our Key Verse together! When we memorize the Bible, we put God's truth in our hearts and minds to help us remember what is true and who God is. Let's practice together! *Play the Key Verse video or show the verse slide.*



MISSION FOCUS - ACTS LOCAL PARTNERS (woodmenvalley.org/acts)

Now that we're all sitting and ready to listen, let's look at our mission focus for today. Our focus for this month is a way to **SERVE THE CITY**.

As we've been learning, **Woodmen's ACTS Ministry** partners with local organizations to help people in our city! Today, we're focusing on a special project called **City Serve!** City Serve is a special day when people all over our city work together to help others! We serve at schools, parks, neighborhoods and local organizations by cleaning, fixing, helping and caring for our community. It's a great way to show God's love by serving others!

This year, there are special projects designed just for families! *Take home an info card and ask your family to sign up* for a project that you can serve at together on October 3! We'll even start the day by having **pancakes together** before we head out to serve!

You can also support this project by praying for those who serve and those impacted!

PRAY (for the mission focus and upcoming lesson)

Let's bow our heads, close our eyes and show respect to God while we pray!



WORSHIP

Let's move into a time of worship. This is a chance for us to praise God and say "thank you!" for everything He does for us. You can worship in a way that helps you focus on God best. You can stand, sit, kneel, raise your hands or participate in the motions. *Play worship songs.*

SONGS: Every Move I Make, Praise, Battle Belongs



LESSON VIDEO

Please take a seat quietly so we can watch our lesson video together. As you watch, see if you can find the answers to our big 3 questions! Who is the story about? What is the problem or what happens? And what does God do? Let's watch together! *Play lesson video.*

WORSHIP RESPONSE SCRIPT



PREPARE AHEAD

Before Large Group, prepare all Worship Response materials and ask Ministry Partners to help lead and support the activity.

SUPPLIES: heart stickers, Story of the Cross song



REFLECT: God is Merciful!

Let's get our hearts and bodies ready for Worship Response. Start by taking three deep breaths (*take 3 breaths together*). Now let's relax our bodies and find a comfortable position to be still and focus on God - one that won't distract others.

REVIEW LESSON & GOD STATEMENT

God shows kindness and compassion even when we deserve punishment—that's called mercy! We all sin and make wrong choices. We deserve the punishment for our sin, but God loves us so much that He showed us mercy. Instead of making us take the punishment for sin, God sent Jesus to take the punishment for us by dying on the cross. Three days later, Jesus came back to life so we could be forgiven and have a relationship with God.

EXPLAIN WORSHIP RESPONSE ACTIVITY

- A teacher or LIT is going to come around and **give you a heart sticker** to remind you of God's mercy
- Can you imagine how much God loves you if He was willing to send His very own son to die for you? That's a lot of love!
- As you sit and wait for a heart and even after you receive your heart, you can pray and talk to God, you can listen to the song playing in the background or you can simply sit and be still
- As you participate, please remember to be quiet and participate on your own

DISMISS KIDS TO PARTICIPATE & PLAY SONG

Play the song in the Powerpoint as kids participate. If the song ends before all kids are done participating, play it again.



PRAY OVER THE KIDS

After all kids have had a chance to participate, close Worship Response by simply praying over them. No transition or introduction is needed—just begin the prayer.

CLOSING LARGE GROUP SCRIPT



OFFERING

One more way we can respond to and worship God is by giving offering. Offering is an opportunity every week to give some of our money to God as a way to say “Thank you, God!” for all He has done for us. Remember, you never *have* to give offering. Giving offering is something you *choose* to do with a thankful heart! God gives to us...so we give back to Him! If you have offering today, you can place it in the offering bin before you leave.



God gives to us...



We give back to God!

BLESSING

Before we go, I want to speak a blessing over you so can you please stand up? A blessing sends us into our week with God’s truth in our hearts, reminding us of who He is and that He is with us wherever we go. If you’d like, hold out your hands with your palms up as a way of showing that you are ready to receive these words and God’s truth. Listen closely as I speak this blessing over you.

May you receive God’s mercy for you today, knowing that God loves you so much and He gave His Son for you!



TRANSITION

After the blessing, dismiss kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

We learned a lot together today! Now we’re going to head back to Small Group to unpack what we learned and talk about what it means for our lives. This is a great time to ask questions, share your thoughts and see if you caught the answers to our Big 3 Questions from the lesson!

6:50-7:10pm
9:50-10:10am
11:50am-12:10pm

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in **small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner**.



REFLECT: Big 3 & Application

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's talk about what we learned today! Find a spot to sit quietly and get in a comfortable position that's not distracting to others. Let's start by looking at the **BIG 3** questions we talked about at the beginning of class. Did anyone find the answers?

1

ASK: Who was our story about today?

KIDS RESPOND: God, Cain, Abel, and us.

2

ASK: What was the problem?

KIDS RESPOND: Cain became very upset when the Lord did not accept his offering, and chose to kill his brother, Abel.

3

ASK: What did God do?

KIDS RESPOND: God was upset with Cain, but showed him mercy and gave him a chance to do the right thing!

Now let's talk about how this could **APPLY** to our own lives. Depending on what God is teaching us, our answers might be different. But I would love to hear your thoughts!



ASK: Why does this matter to me?

Example: It shows me that even when I mess up, God will show me mercy and give me the chance to ask for forgiveness, even when I don't deserve it!



ASK: How can I apply this to my own life?

Example: Example: I can say sorry when I make a wrong choice; I can ask God to help me make better choices; I can show mercy and forgiveness to others when they hurt me.



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud. It can feel a little scary to pray together, but God loves to hear our prayers! We don't have to say anything fancy - we can just talk to Him!



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then have a leader close in prayer. You can also use your prayer journal to write down and reflect on prayers from your group each week.

If time allows

OPTIONAL RESPOND ACTIVITY

The goal of the OPTIONAL Respond Activity is for kids to engage in a game that helps reinforce the lesson for the day.



ACTIVITY: Mercy Ball

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the students can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: Soft ball



SAY:

“We’re going to play Mercy Ball! It’s like dodgeball, but there’s a twist. If you get hit, you’ll go to your team’s out area. But you might get another chance! If someone on your team catches a ball, they can choose one teammate to come back into the game. Just like you can get another chance in our game, today we learned that God is merciful! He shows us kindness and compassion even when we mess up.”



DO:

Split kids into two teams and play dodgeball using soft foam balls. If a player is hit below the shoulders, have them move to their team’s designated out area. When a teammate catches a ball, they can choose one player to return to the game. Continue until one team has no players left, or call time and start a new round!

As parents arrive after service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing their parent the announcement card.