



Lesson 3

2s & 3s

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

BIG QUESTION:

Who is Merciful?

(God is Merciful!)

TIPS & TRICKS

KEEP IT SIMPLE

- Use short, simple sentences. One instruction at a time.
- Repeat the same words and phrases often.
- Don't worry if they don't seem to "get" the lesson. Repetition matters!
- Focus on one big truth rather than trying to explain everything.

TODDLERS CURRICULUM VIDEOS:

Plex > Videos > Early Childhood > 2s/3s folder

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

CHECK-IN

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



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

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.



MAKE: God is Merciful Coloring Page

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

Supplies: Coloring page, coloring utensils



SAY:

Today we're learning that God is merciful! That means he chooses not to give us the punishment we deserve! He forgives us instead!



DO:

- Encourage kids to color the heart coloring page
- As they color, remind them that God is merciful and gives us grace when we mess up!



ASK: Big Question

Give kids a simple, repeatable way to remember the daily God Statement



SAY:

► ASK: Who is merciful?

RESPOND TOGETHER: God is merciful!

Invite kids to repeat - say it together using a fun voice, simple motions or repetition to help them remember.



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 transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."



6:25-6:40pm
9:25-9:40am
11:25-11:40am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video
(Plex > Videos > Early Childhood > 2s & 3s)



SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!



DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class.
To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > Early Childhood > 2s/3s folder.

SONG 1: My God is So Big

SONG 2: Jesus Loves Me



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 5). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Supplies: heart stickers

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.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

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

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: small baseball bat



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.



SAY:

Hi, Hamilton! What do you have with you? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh, it's a bat?! You were playing baseball in your yard? **Hamilton whispers in your ear again.** Hamilton was having so much fun playing that he swung the bat really hard and... CRASH! Oh no! Hamilton's baseball hit his neighbor's window and broke it. How do you think Hamilton feels? **Let kids respond.** Hamilton felt sad because he made a mistake. He went to his neighbor and said, "I'm sorry. I broke your window." Hamilton knew he should help fix what he broke. But his neighbor showed him mercy and said, "I forgive you. I know you didn't mean to break it. I will fix the window." Wow! Hamilton's neighbor was kind and forgiving, even though Hamilton made a mistake. That's kind of like our story today! Let's read it together! Are you ready?



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.



SAY:

Today's story is about two brothers named Cain and Abel. Abel took care of sheep, and Cain grew food on a farm. One day, Cain and Abel brought gifts to God. Abel brought God his best because he loved God. But Cain did not make a good choice. Cain did not listen to God, and he did not give God his best.

God was not happy with Cain's choice. Can you make a sad face? **Allow kids to respond.** But God did not stop loving Cain. God talked to Cain and helped him know he needed to make a better choice.

Cain became very angry. Can you show me an angry face? **Allow kids to respond.** Cain was so angry that he made a very sad choice. He hurt his brother Abel. God knew what happened and was sad about Cain's sin. But God still showed Cain mercy. This means God didn't give Cain the punishment he deserved for the bad thing he did. God cared for Cain and protected him. Cain made a wrong choice, but God showed mercy.

Do you know what? We make wrong choices too. Sometimes we don't listen, sometimes we are unkind or sometimes we do something we know is wrong. But **God is merciful.** He loves us, forgives us and helps us make better choices. He even loved us so much he sent Jesus to save us from our sins! God is merciful!

6:40-6:55pm

9:40-9:55am

11:40-11:55am

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 Question & Application

Help students process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big question 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 QUESTION** we talked about at the beginning of class.



ASK: Who is merciful?

RESPOND TOGETHER: God is merciful!

Invite kids to repeat - say it together using a fun voice, simple motions or repetition to help them remember.

Now let's think about how this might apply to each of us!



ASK: What does this mean to you?

EXAMPLES: God forgives me when I don't deserve it; God shows me mercy, God shows my family mercy, etc.



ACTIVITY- Teacher Says

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: None



SAY:

Today we learned that God is merciful! Let's play "Teacher Says". Listen carefully and only move when you hear, 'Teacher says!' If you mess up, you'll sit down, but don't worry! God shows us mercy even when we mess up! So your friends can show you mercy and invite you back into the game by tagging you!



DO:

Play "Teacher Says" using simple actions like jumping, clapping, spinning, or touching your toes. If a child does an action without hearing "Teacher says," have them freeze in place. Another child can gently tag them to unfreeze them and bring them back into the game. Continue playing so kids have lots of chances to move, freeze, and return!

6:55-7:10pm
9:55-10:10am
11:55am-12:10pm

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

Free play is a great way to spend the remaining classroom time and is an important part of healthy development! When you can, we also encourage you to lead at least one structured activity to help kids practice new skills, engage with others and learn together.



DO:

- **Follow the Leader** – Walk, stomp, tiptoe, jump, clap, crawl or march around the room
- **I Spy** – "I spy something BLUE!" Everyone points to or walks over to something blue
- **Creation Actions** – Call out something God created and act it out: shine like a star, sway like a tree, swim like a fish, fly like a bird
- **Praise Parade** – March around together while calling out things you can thank God for

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 Explore craft or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

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