

## GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS

UNIT ONE: Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham.

**Lesson 2:****Cain is Angry with His Brother****CONTENT:**

1. Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain who was a farmer, and Abel who was a shepherd. They offered grain and lambs to God, but God could see their hearts and he was not happy with Cain's offering.
2. Cain was jealous (*'envious' is the correct word, but the children may not be familiar with it*) of his brother and angry with him. Although God warned him not to give in to his anger, he did not listen, and finally killed his brother. He had to go away from that place and from God's presence.



3. Jesus told us that God is our Father. That means everyone is our brother or sister. He also told us that before offering a gift to God (or praying) we must make friends with our brothers and sisters, otherwise God will not be happy with our prayer. [CCC 2792]



4. At Mass, before we go for Holy Communion, we say 'Peace be with you!' to one another. At this time we should give up any anger or bad feelings we have towards anyone.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Ask your family this riddle and write down their answer: 'How is anger like a wolf standing at your door?' Read handout at home.

**REFERENCES:** Genesis 4:1-16; Matthew 5:22-24, 6:9. CCC 2259; 2538; 2608;2792.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Handouts.

**I. STARTER:**

- Last time we heard about Ajit and all the 'masthi' he did in the village. Do you remember what he was thinking and grumbling about as he walked behind Daddy and Peter? [*"Daddy doesn't like me. He only likes Peter. That's why he scolded me this morning."*]
- Was it true? Did his Daddy really not like him? [*No. He had scolded him because he had been naughty. He did love him as his own son.*]

Today I'll tell you about two other brothers who had the same kind of problem. One brother became jealous of the other one. This is a true story from the Bible.

**II. DEVELOPMENT:**

**STORY:** Cain is Angry with His Brother

Do you remember the names of the first man and woman whom God made? [*Adam and Eve*]. Adam and Eve had two sons. The elder son was named Cain and the younger was Abel. Cain was a farmer. He worked in the fields and grew vegetables and grain. Abel was a shepherd. He looked after his sheep out on the hillside.

Now in those days, if someone wanted to pray, he would do this: He would collect some big stones and make a kind of table, or altar. Then he would put wood on it and on top of the wood he would put some gift for God. Then he would burn the gift. That was his way of showing God his thanks.

Cain and Abel also prayed in this way. They both built altars. Cain took some vegetables and grain and put it on the wood. Abel took the first lambs that were born and put them as his gift to God. Then they both set fire to their offering. (Offering means something you give to God.)

But as the fires started burning, Cain noticed that the smoke from Abel's offering was going straight up to the sky, but the smoke from his fire was going down. His face became angry. He became jealous of his brother and started grumbling (just like Ajit), "God doesn't like me. He only likes Abel. He's only taking his offering, but not mine, because he always favours him."

Do you think he was right? Of course not! God loves everyone the same. But God looks at our hearts, more than at our words and gifts. Abel's heart was right, so God was happy with his offering. But when God looked at Cain's heart, he saw that something was very wrong!

God said to Cain, "Why are you so angry? Why are you jealous of your brother? Be careful! Your anger is like a wild animal. It is standing at the door of your heart. If you don't control it, it will jump on you and hurt you."

But Cain didn't listen to God. He kept on grumbling and thinking angry thoughts. Then one day he said to his brother, "Come, let's go out for a walk in the fields." When they were far from their home, and when Abel was not looking, Cain took a knife and killed his brother. He thought no one had seen anything, but suddenly God's voice called out, "Cain! Where is your brother Abel?"

Cain answered, "How am I to know where he is? Am I supposed to watch him all the time?" He didn't tell God what he had done, and he didn't say sorry.

But God knows everything. He said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! Now you can't stay here anymore, or grow crops here. You must leave this place and become a wanderer."

So Cain had to leave his family and his fields. Worst of all, he couldn't stay in God's presence any more.

- Remember the warning God gave Cain? What did he say? [*He said, "Be careful! Your anger is like a wild animal. It is standing at the door of your heart. If you don't control it, it will jump on you and hurt you."*]
- What did God mean? Think about it at home.

**Home assignment:**

- Ask your family this riddle: **'How is anger like a wolf standing at your door?'** Write down the answer on a piece of paper and bring it to class next time.

NEXT CLASS:

[Read out the answers to the riddle from those who have got a response. Bring out:]

- If a wolf comes to your door, you would not let it in. You would chase it away with a stick; otherwise it would attack you and hurt you.  
Anger is like a wolf. If you let it into your heart and don't control it, it will make you do bad things like Cain, and that would take you away from God. Those who are away from God cannot be happy.
- Jesus also talked to his friends about offerings and about anger and killing. He said, "Killing is very bad, but even being angry with others is bad. If you come to pray, or offer a gift to God and then if you remember that you are angry with someone or fighting with someone, go back, make friends, and then only come and offer your gift to God."

[Give out handouts at this point. Read the story and the words of Jesus.]

- We cannot come close to God if we are angry with someone. That's why, before we go for Communion (that means before we can receive Jesus) Father says, "Let us offer each other a sign of peace!" Then we turn to each other and say something. What do we say? [*'Peace be with you!'*] [*Children write the words in the call-out*]

## REFLECTION & PRAYER:

*[Encourage the children to settle down and lead them to pray thus:]*

- Does that wild wolf come to your heart also, as it came to Cain? Yes! All of us feel angry, sometimes with our brother or sister, sometimes with Daddy or Mummy, a teacher, or a class-mate.
- But if we let that anger come into our hearts, and if we go on thinking angry and jealous thoughts, we may do something bad.
- Do you want to keep anger in your heart, or shall we send the wolf away?

Then let's close our eyes. Think of your Father God. He is calling you close to himself. He is looking at you lovingly...

Now think of someone you are angry with, or someone you are jealous of... Imagine he is standing far away. God is pointing to that person and telling you, "Make friends!"...

In your mind go to that person and say, "Peace be with you!" Now both of you hold hands and come to your Father God...

God is smiling at you and saying, "Well done! I am happy with you!"

Open your eyes. Has the wolf gone? Are you feeling peaceful? If you start getting angry again, you know what to do.

*[If time permits sing 'God loves you and I love you' or play 'Is the Lamb at Home Today?']*

**God loves you and I love you and that's the way it should be!**

**God loves you and I love you and that's the way it should be!**

We should love others like sisters and brothers and that's the way it should be!

We should love others like sisters and brothers and that's the way it should be!

**For God loves you and....**

For you may be very sad, and I may be very sad, but that's not the way it should be!

You may be very sad and I may be very sad, but that's not the way it should be.

**For God loves you and...**

<b>Home assignment:</b> Read handout at home.
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