

## Cain and Abel

### Genesis 4

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living, and she conceived and bore Cain. And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep,<sup>1</sup> and Cain a worker of the ground.<sup>2</sup>

In the course of time, Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,<sup>3</sup> but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. Cain was very angry, and his face fell.<sup>4</sup>

The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. When they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

The LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer<sup>5</sup> on the earth."

Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, You have driven me from the ground, and from Your face I shall be hidden. And whoever finds me will kill me."

And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.



*The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering.*

### For Reflection

1. Why do you suppose God told Cain, "Sin is crouching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must rule over it"?
2. How did God show His grace to Cain? How does He show His grace to us?
3. How can we show our love and trust in Jesus as our Savior in the way we treat our brothers, sisters, and friends? in the way we treat all others?

### Words to Remember

By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. *1 John 3:16*

### Explanatory Notes

<sup>1</sup>A shepherd. <sup>2</sup>A farmer. <sup>3</sup>Liked it. <sup>4</sup>Looked upset. <sup>5</sup>One who goes from place to place.