In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 5
God's Mercy and Abel's Response of Faith

Themes:
- God is merciful—He is kind to undeserving sinners.
- God required a covering for sin and provided a way for sinners to come to Him.
- Adam and Eve's children were all born as sinners, deserving God's punishment.
- Abel trusted God for what is true and right, and by faith became a friend of God.

Scripture:
Romans 1:21; Genesis 3:21, 24; 4:1-5

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:5a (and review verses 3-4)

Today's Clue:
COVERING FOR SIN

Home and Heart:
What did God use to cover Adam and Eve after they sinned in the garden? Read Genesis 3:21. How does this show God is merciful? What is God's mercy? Read Psalm 103:9-10. Do you think Adam and Eve understood what it meant for God to provide a covering of animal skins? Do animals have blood like people do? What had to happen to an animal for its skin to be used to cover Adam and Eve? Why did God require a covering for sin? (Habakkuk 1:13a) Explain that this covering for sin was only a temporary solution. God had planned a much better way related to Jesus and His death on the cross.

At first, Adam and Eve tried to make their own covering of leaves. Did that work? Why not? Have you ever tried to cover sin your own way? What might that look like? Do you think it would take care of your sin problem?

Explain to your child what a family tree is. Point out that Adam and Eve also have a family tree. Who does it include? Everyone! Explain that even though we have different parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, we all have one common set of parents way back: Adam and Eve. Why is that important for us to know? Because Adam and Eve were sinners and had darkened hearts, what did that mean for their children and descendants? Can you think of a Bible verse that tells us that all people are sinners? (Romans 3:10-12, 23; and 5:12, 19.) Can you feel this in your own heart? How? Do you think you could decide for yourself the right covering for sin like Cain did? What was the result of Cain trying to do things his own way? How was Abel's attitude different? Was Abel still a sinner like Cain? Why did God accept Abel's offering, but not Cain's? (Abel trusted God and did things God's way. Hebrews 11:4, 6.) What do the words "by faith" mean? Do you have faith in God? What are you trusting Him for?



DISCOVER MORE GENESIS

The story isn't over yet! What happened next to Cain and Abel? This week, open your Bible, read **Genesis 4:1-26,** and answer the following questions:

1. Who spoke to Cain in verses 6-7?

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2. What warning did God give to Cain in verse 7?

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3. What did Cain do to Abel in verse 8?

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4. Who does Cain sound like in verse 9? (Hint: Genesis 3:12-13)

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5. How was God merciful to Cain in verse 15?

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6. Whose presence did Cain leave in verse 16?

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7. Who was Adam and Eve's third son?

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8. According to verse 26, what did men begin to do?

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