## My Way or God's Way? Key References: Genesis 4:1-12; Patriarchs and Prophets, chap. 5, pp. 71-79; The Bible Story (1994), vol. 1, pp. 73-86; Our Beliefs, nos. 19, 7, 8



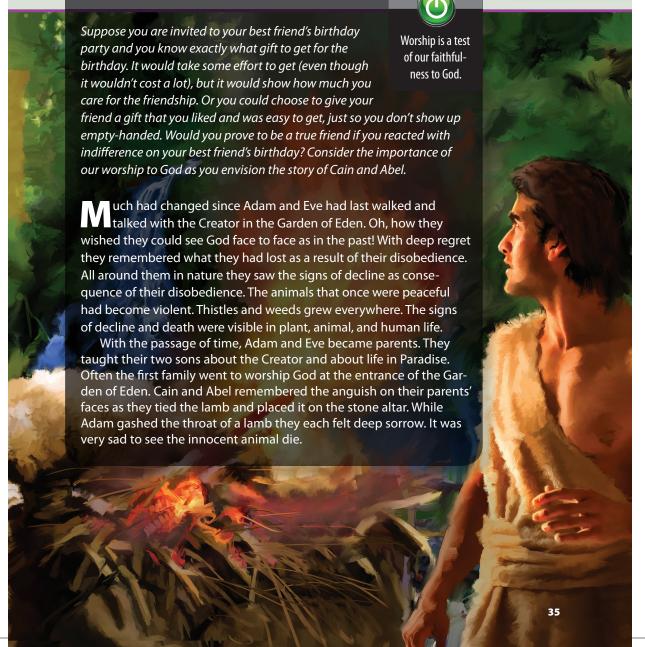
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## powertext

"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it" (Genesis 4:7).

Do Do this week's activity on page 33.

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Sunday

**READ** Read Genesis 4:1–12 and this week's story, "My Way or God's Way"

(EARN) Write the power text, Genesis 4:7, on a small index card that you could carry in your pocket and repeat during the week. Repeat it three times and start memorizing it.

(PRAY) Invite God into your heart and ask Him to help you make wise choices.

Monday

**READ** Read 1 Samuel 15:22.

**THINK** What are the things that keep you from being obedient to God's requirements?

WRITE In your Bible journal, rewrite today's text using your own words. Then write down the things that you need to give up in order to do what is pleasing to God.

**PRAY** Praise God for teaching you to live in obedience to Him.

**Fuesday** 

**READ** Read Hebrews 11:4.

**REFLECT** What does this verse mean to you? What made the difference between Abel's sacrifice and Cain's offering?

**CHARE** What are some ways you could show your faith in God? Today, share with someone the difference faith makes in your life.

**PRAY** Pray for a family member who needs to accept Jesus by faith as his or her personal Savior.

"This lamb had to die because we disobeyed the Creator's command," Adam explained as Eve wiped the free flow of her tears. "God never stops loving us. He offered a solution to save us from the penalty of sin. A Redeemer will come and, like this lamb, will sacrifice His life for us. He is our only hope!"

As the years passed, the once-young children became young men, capable of making important decisions. They could now worship God on their own.

"Tomorrow is the big day!" said Abel one day as the brothers returned home from the fields. "I have chosen a newborn lamb from my flock. I will be ready to sacrifice to the Creator. Have you prepared your sacrifice, Cain?"

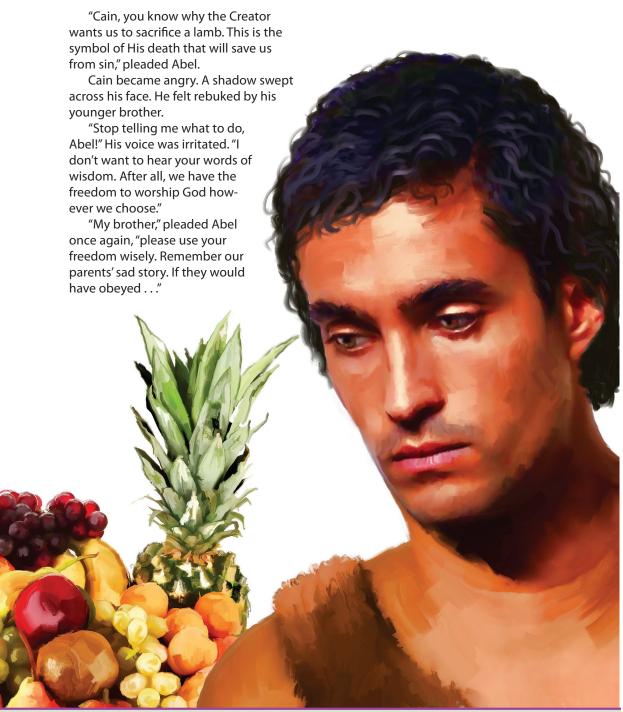
"Not yet. I don't see why it is such a big deal, Abel. Tomorrow morning I'll just fill my basket with some ripe fruits, and that will be my offering to God."

"But Cain," insisted Abel, his voice filled with concern, "you know what sacrifice is pleasing to God."

"All that matters is that we offer God a gift," said Cain with indifference. "I'll give God some of the fruits I harvested. I will choose the best fruits from my orchard."



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**READ** Read John 14:15.

**REFLECT** Notice that love always leads to obedience.

Choose to do something today that shows your love and obedience to your parents.

**PRAY** Ask God to teach you to love Him by walking in obedience to Him.

Thursday

**READ** Read Romans 12:1, 2.

**REFLECT** What does it mean to "offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God"?

**OISCUSS** Talk with a family member about ways you could offer God your "true and proper worship."

**CRAY** Thank God for His many blessings, and let your life be a reflection of your praise to Him.

Friday

**READ** Read Psalm 119:9-11 several times.

MEMORIZE In addition to your Bible reading, memorize Scripture passages that will help you choose what is right (i.e., Proverbs 1:8, 9; Micah 6:8; Matthew 7:12).

**LEARN** Repeat the power text by memory.

SING With your family, sing your favorite praise song.

**PRAY** Praise God for His Word, which teaches us how to serve and worship Him.

"Enough! I don't want to listen to you anymore!" interrupted Cain, his voice filled with rage as he turned around with fury and left.

The next day Abel offered to God a lamb sacrifice. Cain brought his load of ripe fruits and laid them on the stone altar. The contrast was striking. The significance was crucial. Abel recognized his need of forgiveness and accepted the sacrifice of the Redeemer. Cain in turn relied on the fruits of his labor as being



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good enough, and he rejected God's forgiveness.

God honored Abel's obedience by sending fire from heaven to consume his lamb sacrifice. Yet God rejected Cain's fruit offering, which was proof of his disobedience. As Abel's love for God continued to grow, Cain continued to do what was right in his own eyes. He started envying his brother because the Creator received Abel's sacrifice favorably. In his rebellion, one sin led to another. It wasn't

long before Abel became the victim of the hatred of his brother, who cruelly murdered him.

Two brothers who had the same upbringing, who were equally taught the distinction between right and wrong, and who enjoyed the same privileges! God's expectations were the same. One chose to worship God's way; the other chose to worship his own way. A simple test with eternal consequences that could be summarized in a few simple words:

How we worship God.



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## WORSHIPPING GOD

**Instructions:** Match the words on the right to the correct meaning on the left. Take the first letter of each matched word and put it before the correct meaning in order to find what God requires.

 What did Cain and Abel bring to God? (Genesis 4:3, 4)	intercede
 What cried out to God? (Genesis 4:10, 11)	crush its head
 Where would Cain be a "restless wanderer"? (Genesis 4:12)	Eden
 What is the penalty for sin? (Romans 6:23)	evil
 What does Jesus do for us? (Hebrews 7:25)	new
 Cain lived in Nod, which is east of where? (Genesis 4:16)	blood
 To "love one another" is what kind of command? (John 13:34)	offering
 What would Adam and Eve's offspring do to the serpent? (Genesis 3:15)	earth
What is arrogance like? (1 Samuel 15:22-23)	death