

CAIN AND ABEL

Hebrews 11:4 (Read Gen. 4:1-16)

COLORS: Light green or blue paper. Distant hills, purple. Altars, gray; outlines, dark blue. Cain, dark green; Abel white or purple. Foreground streaked with brown. Grass tufts, green. Use all colors for fruit on Cain's altar. Lamb, white; fire red.

STORY POINTS: Adam's sons must have known that God desired them to offer sacrifices. Cain's sacrifice looked beautiful and would make anyone think his heart was just like this. It didn't take long to see his heart was full of hatred, anger, and even murder when he found his offering wasn't what God wanted (Jer. 17:9). Look up Ignorance in *Pilgrim's Progress* and see how he trusted his heart. No doubt Cain had to work hard to produce his offering, whereas Abel's needed nothing like this toil. Man is ever wanting to work his way to merit God's favor.

GOSPEL APPLICATION: There is hardly a better story to use in presenting the Gospel. Abel offers a lamb (firstlings of the flock). It portrays God's Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. God looked forward, if we can refer thus to the eternal present, to the Lamb of God bearing away the sin of the world. Cain made the mistake thousands still make, thinking human effort must be better than accepting God's revelation of salvation in a Substitute. Bunyan calls the modern Cain "Mr. Worldly-Wiseman." Let us be "Abels."

REMARKS: This story can be one of a series on Hebrews 11. Add pieces of fruit to Cain's altar as story progresses, then put Abel's lamb on the altar, bring down the fire as a climax.