



# Cain and Abel

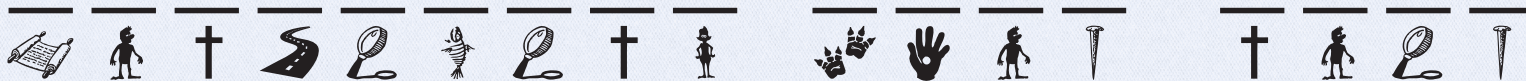
Genesis 4:2-5; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12; Genesis 4:8-9, 4:12-15

Name

## Bible Code

God had regard for Abel's sacrifice. What **quality** did Abel have that made his sacrifice more acceptable than Cain's? Decipher the code to find the answer.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



## Genesis 6:5



The LORD asw that the wickedness of amn was great in the thare, and that yerev intention of the shuhtogt of his heart was only ivle continually.





## **What You Heard** *In the Word*

- God accepted Abel’s offering because he had a righteous, obedient heart. God did not accept Cain’s offering because he had a wicked, evil heart.
- God showed mercy to Cain by sparing his life.

## **OutWord** *For Family Discussion*

What if your friend asks you, “If the Bible is true, where did Cain get his wife?” **How would you answer?**

*That’s a very good question! The Bible says Eve is the mother of all people. It is believed that she and Adam had over 50 children! So, most people believe that Cain married his sister or maybe a niece. Even though that seems strange today, there wasn’t anyone else to marry back then. We don’t marry close relatives now, but back then it was okay.*

## **HomeWord** *For Parents*

The sin committed at the Fall of man through the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the garden (Genesis 3:6–7) brought corruption on the human race. Adam and Eve were cursed by God (Genesis 3:16–17) and sent out of the garden (Genesis 3:24). Eve had two sons—Cain and Abel. As they grew, Abel became a keeper of the sheep, but Cain worked the ground (Genesis 4:1–2). After some time, they each brought an offering to the Lord. Cain brought some of the “fruit of the ground,” and Abel brought “the firstborn of his flock” (Genesis 4:3–4). In Genesis we are simply told that the Lord had regard for Abel’s offering but not for Cain’s (Genesis 4:4–5). But why?

Hebrews records that Abel made his offering “by faith” and that he was righteous (Hebrews 11:4). Cain, however, was of the evil one and murdered his brother because his deeds were evil (1 John 3:11–12). Cain’s actions spoke loudly of the desires of his heart. Because of his jealousy, he killed his brother. In dealing with Cain’s sin, God revealed both His justice and mercy. He punished Cain by making him a fugitive and a wanderer (Genesis 4:12), yet He mercifully gave Cain a mark so that he would not be murdered (Genesis 4:15).

After Cain’s punishment, the Bible mentions Cain’s wife in Genesis 4:17. A question often asked is, “Where did Cain get his wife?” Since Cain was from the very first family of Adam and Eve, the question is understandable. However, we can answer the question based on what God’s Word clearly says. All people are descendants of Adam and Eve—and this was the only family on the planet. Consequently, most Bible scholars believe that Cain married his sister or his niece. Back then, about 6,000 years ago, it was acceptable for close relatives to marry. They had to so they could start their own families. In fact, it wasn’t until 2,500 years later that God forbade close relatives from marrying. God’s Word gives us the truth—it should be our starting point for determining answers.

*Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.*

