

Two Brothers: Cain and Abel

Adam and Eve became the parents of two boys: Cain and Abel. Adam and Eve were very happy that God had blessed them with children.

As the boys grew up, Abel became a shepherd and took care of flocks of sheep. Cain worked as a farmer and grew vegetables and things from the ground. Both worked very hard and each young man brought an offering to God, to thank Him for the food they had worked hard to grow. God accepted Abel's offering, but He did not accept the offering of Cain.

Cain became angry, so God said to him: "Why are you angry? If you do your work well, don't you know that I will be pleased and accept your offering? But if you don't do well, you will be tempted to do evil." So God warned Cain to be careful and not let himself become jealous or angry.

But Cain was jealous and angry. He asked his brother Abel to go out to the fields with him. Cain attacked his brother and killed him. God saw what Cain had done and he asked him about Abel's death, but Cain pretended he didn't know what happened to Abel.

God made Cain leave home. Cain was afraid because he thought other people would find him and try to kill him, just as he had killed his brother. But God placed a special mark on Cain's forehead to protect him. Now everyone would know that Cain had done wrong, but they also knew that anyone who tried to kill Cain would also be punished by God. God wanted everyone to know that no one should take away the life of any of God's creatures.