

For further reading on "Separation" see: Genesis 1-3

Apply Within

How were you able to reflect the image of God last week?

Why do you think Adam and Eve ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?

Why do you think sin is so hurtful to God, and damaging to you?

How are we like our first parents, Adam and Eve?

What sin do you need to confess today and repent of? What are some choices I need to make that will help me reflect the image of God better?

Family Times

At Crosslink we want to build strong families of faith. Scriptures teach us that there are some natural rhythms of life. Deuteronomy 6:7 gives us this prescription for training our children: *"Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* (HCSB) Here are some ideas of the way you can communicate this week's Big Idea to your children [grandchildren]:

Morning Time - Talk to your children about sin, and how it affects us. Talk about the consequences that come along when we choose to do the wrong thing. You probably have a real life example you can share with them.

Drive Time - While traveling in your car it is a good time to talk to your children about spiritual matters. Jesus often used object lessons to drive home a point to His followers. So this week talk about the things we see in society that is a result of sin. Genesis 3 talks about how the land was cursed. So the man now works on the earth in toil! Ladies have to bring children into the world now in great pain because of the curse. Sin has affected us all! Get them to talk about how their sin affects others. Depending on the age you may have to define sin for them. Here is an easy definition of sin [Sin is anything we think, say, or do that doesn't please God!]

Meal Time - Plan to share at one meal time around the **"Story of God"** for this week. This week it happens to be the **"Separation."** This would be a good time to review Genesis 1-2. The past two weeks we talked about God created creation. Therefore, you can trust Him. Then last week we discussed how humans were created to reflect the image of almighty God! Now as a family read through Genesis 3. Make sure you stop and explain certain concepts along the way. Pray together. You can also introduce the Family Memory Verse.

Bed Time - As you tuck your kids into bed each night reflect on the day, go over the **Family Memory Verse** for the week and then pray with them. Pray they will avoid sin in their lives. Pray protection over them.

This Weeks Family Memory Verse

*"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made."
Genesis 3:1 [ESV]*

CAIN AND ABEL

Apply Within

Cain and Abel both brought an offering to the LORD. Why didn't God except Cain's offering?

Which character in the story do you feel you most resemble? Cain or Abel?

Cain was jealous of his brother and that hindered his giving to the LORD. What is it that may be hindering you in giving to the LORD?

What is one thing you could do today to help you worship God supremely? How could you live out a the Crosslink value of GENEROSITY? What can you do to start giving your TIME, TALENTS & TREASURE?

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Morning Time - This is a great opportunity to pray with your children about anything they are struggling with. Talk to them how we are to "love one another" because that is what God does for us. He loves us and wants us to love others. This is especially good for siblings to understand.

Drive Time - While traveling in your car it is a good time to talk to your children about spiritual matters. Jesus often used object lessons to drive home a point to His followers. So this week talk about how jealousy is a sin and how it can cause major problems with friends and family members. Talk about how God wants us to come to church to worship him without carrying a lot of excess baggage [you may need to explain "baggage" to them. See the idea for MEAL TIME]

Meal Time - Plan to share at one meal time around the "Story of God" for this week. This week it happens to be the story of "CAIN and ABEL." One night at dinner bring a suitcase to the table and just sit it on the floor. When they ask what it's for you can tell them you are carrying in some baggage. When they ask what is in there you can tell them. [You can make up some things such as jealousy, anger, bitterness, etc. or if you are really crafty you can write it on sheets of paper and pull it out.] Talk to them about how we can carry baggage into our time of worship, and that God wants a pure heart. Pray together. You can also introduce the Family Memory Verse.

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This Weeks Family Memory Verse

*And Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,
Genesis 4:4 [ESV]*