

Unit 1. Children of the Bible - OT

Lesson 1.1 Abel the Faithful

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Activities: Implement based on available time. Detailed instructions and materials list are provided in the lesson.

Song: [Those Who Give All](#)

*Consider playing this song in the classroom during the activity

Words of the Week:

հովիտի - hov-eev - shepherd

մատուցում - ma-doo-tsoom - offering

նուէր - nuh-ver - gift

Objective:

Children will understand that God loves faithful hearts and desires our very best, just like Abel who gave God his best with love and trust.

Moral Character Focus:

Knowledge: Children will learn that Abel was faithful to God by giving his best offering with a loving heart

Understanding: Children will recognize that God cares more about our heart attitude than the size of our gift

Application: Children will identify practical ways to be faithful to God in their daily lives (prayer, kindness, giving their best effort)

Values: Children will develop a desire to give God their best with cheerful, loving hearts

Memory Verse:

“God loves a cheerful giver.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:7

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

Open with prayer:

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body: Abel the Faithful

Long, long ago, when the world was still very new, there lived two brothers named Cain and Abel. They lived with their daddy and mommy, Adam and Eve.

Q: Who can remind us who were Adam and Eve?

A: Adam and Eve were the very first people God ever made, and they were the parents of all people in the whole world - including Cain and Abel! God made them special to live in a beautiful garden called Eden where they could walk and talk with God every day. This garden was a beautiful place where flowers bloomed everywhere and animals were their friends. But once they did something very wrong and they had to leave that beautiful garden and start a life of their own. They had to learn how to grow plants, take care of animals and make food and clothes for themselves.

Abel was a shepherd, which means he took care of fluffy sheep. Every morning, he would wake up early and lead his sheep to green grass where they could eat breakfast. Abel loved his sheep so much! He made sure they had fresh water to drink and kept them safe from anything scary.

But you know what Abel loved even more than his sheep? He loved God! Every single day, Abel would talk to God like God was his very best friend. "Good morning, God!" Abel would say as the sun came up. "Thank you for this beautiful day! Thank you for my family and my sheep!"

Now, both Cain and Abel knew that God loved them very much. They wanted to show God how much they loved Him back. In those days, people would bring special gifts to God called offerings. It was like giving God a present to say "Thank you" and "I love you!"

One day, both brothers decided to bring gifts to God. Cain, who was a farmer, brought some extra vegetables from his garden. But Abel did something very special. He looked at all his sheep and chose the very best one - the fluffiest, healthiest, most beautiful and first sheep he had. Even though it was hard to give away his favorite sheep, Abel wanted to give God his very, very best!

Abel went down on his knees and prayed, "Dear God, I love You so much! You give me everything good - my family, food to eat, and these wonderful sheep to care for. I want to give You my best sheep because You deserve the very best!"

When God saw Abel's gift, do you know what happened? God's heart was so happy! It wasn't just because the sheep was beautiful. God was happy because He could see Abel's heart, and Abel's heart was full of love, faith, and trust. Abel truly believed that God was good and wonderful, and he wanted to show it by giving his very best.

God smiled down at faithful Abel. Even though Abel couldn't see God with his eyes, he could feel God's love all around him like the warmest, coziest hug ever.

From that day on, Abel kept being faithful. Every morning he would say "Good morning, God!" Every night he would say "Thank you, God, for this wonderful day!" And whenever he had something special, he would think, "How can I share this with God? How can I show God that I am thankful?"

God loved Abel very much because Abel had a faithful heart - a heart that trusted God, loved God, and always wanted to give God the very best.

Activity #1: “Best Gift” Craft

Materials Needed:

- *Sheep printouts*
- *Cotton balls*
- *Glue sticks*
- *Child-safe scissors*
- *Crayons/markers*
- *Pre-cut paper hearts (both blank and pre-written with “My Best for God”)*
- *Stickers (optional)*
- *Wet wipes for cleanup*

Instructions:

1. *Give each child a sheep printout and cotton balls.*
2. *Have them glue cotton balls all over the sheep to make a “fluffy sheep.” If needed, children can use scissors to trim cotton balls to fit smaller areas.*
3. *Let children choose either a blank heart to write/draw on or a pre-written heart that reads “My Best for God.” Younger children or non-readers can color the pre-written hearts, while older children can personalize blank ones.*
4. *Help children glue the heart to the center of their sheep.*
5. *Encourage children to decorate around the sheep with stickers, additional drawings, or colors.*
6. *Use wet wipes to clean hands as needed during the activity.*

Learning Enhancement

Discussion Questions:

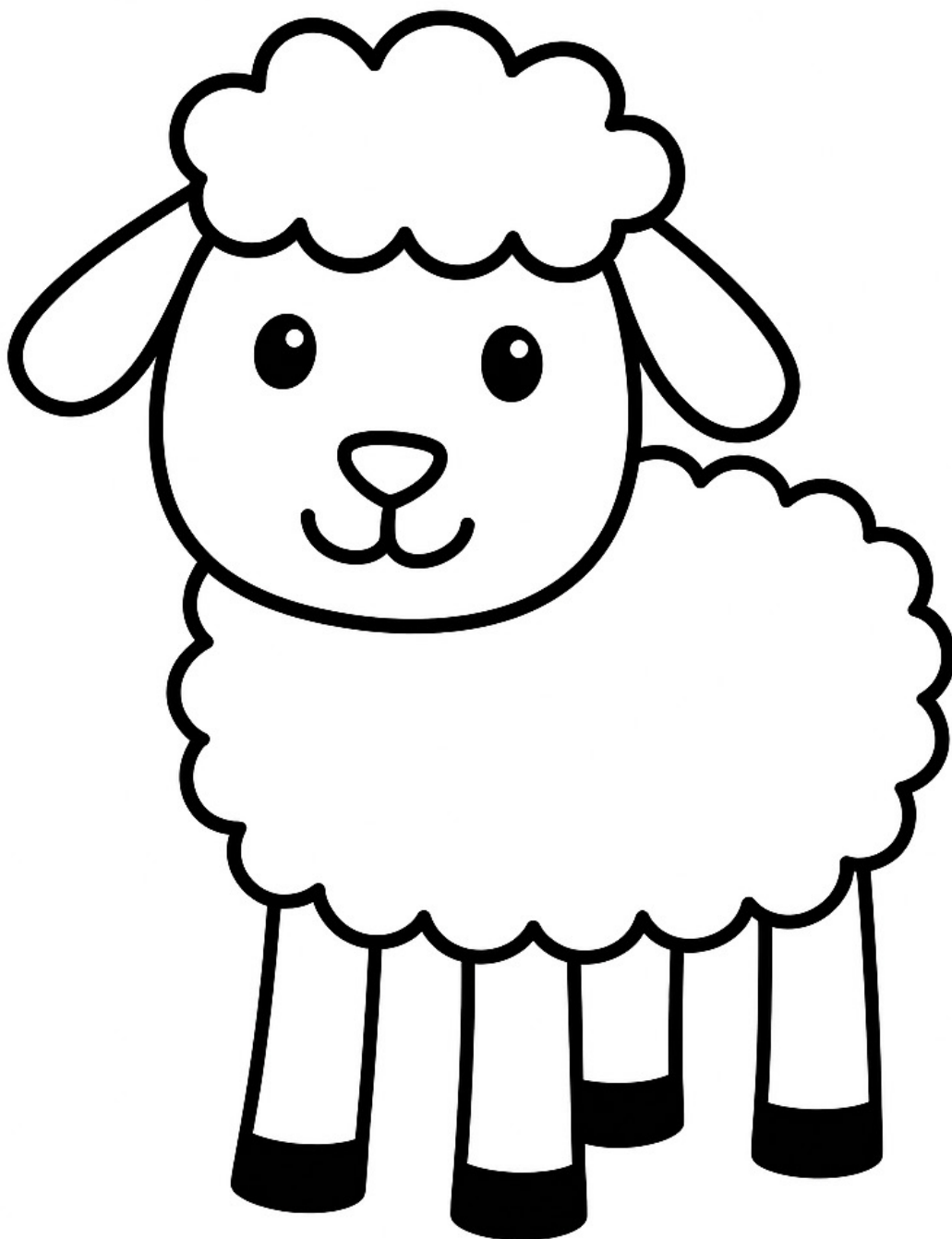
1. *What does it mean to give God our “best”?*
2. *How can we be like good shepherds to others?*
3. *What are some ways we can show God our love?*

Bible Connection:

Connect to stories about shepherds like David (1 Samuel 17) or Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). Discuss how God cares for us like a shepherd cares for sheep.

Sharing Time:

Let children share what their “best” might look like in their daily lives (being kind to siblings, helping parents, sharing toys, etc.).



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Memory Verse:

“God loves a cheerful giver.”
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

Activities for Application and Review

Activity #2: “Faithful Heart” Actions Game

How to play: Call out different scenarios and have children act out how Abel would respond with a faithful heart:

“It’s morning time!” (Children stretch and say “Good morning, God!”)

“Time to take care of the sheep!” (Children pretend to pet sheep gently)

“We want to pray to God!” (Children fold hands and bow heads)

“Let’s give our best to God!” (Children hold up their hands with a big smile)

“Time to say thank you!” (Children say “Thank you, God!” with arms raised)

Say after each action: “That’s what a faithful heart looks like!”

Video:

Activity 3: Memory Verse Fun

Teaching “God loves a cheerful giver” with motions:

“God” - Point up to heaven

“loves” - Hug yourself

“a cheerful” - Big smile and jazz hands

“giver” - Pretend to hand someone a gift

Practice the verse 3-4 times with the motions, getting faster and more enthusiastic each time!

Application: Being Faithful Like Abel

Ask the children: “How can we have faithful hearts like Abel this week?”

Encourage responses like:

- Pray every morning when we wake up
- Say thank you to God before meals
- Help mommy and daddy cheerfully
- Share our toys with friends
- Be kind to others
- Give our best effort in everything we do

Say: “God doesn’t just look at what we do. He looks at our hearts! When our hearts are full of love for God like Abel’s was, that makes God so happy!”

Review

Memory Verse Review:

“God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Lesson Review:

Questions:

1. Who were Cain and Abel’s parents? (*Adam and Eve, the first people God made*)
2. What did Abel do every day to show his love for God? (*He prayed and talked to God like a best friend*)
3. What special gift did Abel give to God? (*His first, very best sheep*)
4. Why was God happy with Abel’s gift? (*Because Abel gave it with a loveing, faithful, and trusting heart*)
5. What are some ways we can give our best to God today? (*By praying, helping others, being kind, sharing, and giving our best effort*)

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Life Application:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Abel showed his love for God by giving his very best. We may not have sheep like Abel, but we can still give God our best every day! When we pray, sing to God, help our parents, share with friends, or do our school-work cheerfully, we are showing God that we love Him. God doesn’t just look at what we give, He looks at our hearts. When we love Him and do our best, it makes God’s heart happy!

Close with prayer:

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.