



# UNACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE: CAIN AND ABEL

**Genesis 4:1-16;  
1 John 3:11-16**

**BIBLICAL PASSAGE**

**Genesis 4:7**

**MEMORY VERSE**

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it. Genesis 4:7

Do you remember in *Star Wars* (20th Century Fox, 1977) when Obi-Wan deactivated his light saber in his duel with Darth Vader? Obi-Wan sacrificed himself for the sake of Luke and the others.

Don't you just love a story in which heroes sacrifice themselves for the sake of something greater? Someone's selfless sacrifice, made willingly without compulsion, shows what that person is made of. Read Genesis 4:1-16 and 1 John 3:11-16. From this story, we can learn about the sacrifices of a few different people: Cain, Abel, and Jesus Christ.

Cain offered a sacrifice out of his leftovers. Scripture implies that he probably kept the choice fruit for himself. Abel offered his finest, most prized sacrifice to God. And

he did so without being asked, out of a giving heart. We can learn from these two brothers the proper attitude and approach to use when giving our offerings to God.

Jesus made the greatest sacrifice of all, taking upon His perfect self the pain and filth of our sin. John says that Jesus demonstrated true love by laying His life down for us. His love for His Father was reflected in His willingness to give His life for His Father's glory and purposes.

What are you offering to God as a sacrifice? Is your love for God reflected in the sacrifices you make? Consider the example you are setting for your teenager. Are you teaching them to sacrifice out of love or out of obligation?

## FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME

### Connect . . .

**Read:** Have you ever noticed a framed dollar bill in a restaurant or business? Usually establishments do this to commemorate the first dollar they ever made.

**Discuss:** What are examples of the "first fruits" of our family? How would we "frame" them to make a lasting memory of them?

### Explore . . .

**Have someone read** Genesis 4:3-7. **Read:** Cain brought some of the fruit from the crop he harvested as an offering in his worship to God; Abel brought the very best portions from the firstborn of his flock as an offering in his worship to God.

**Have someone read** John 3:14. **Read:** Our love for each other reflects our worship of God and the way He has changed us.

### Transform . . .

**How is our family affected when we give just some of our time versus the first of our time? How is our family affected when we are selfish? When we are sacrificial?**

*Pray together that God will grow His love in your family and that the firstfruit of the Spirit will be demonstrated in the way your family relates to each other.*