



# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Old Testament 1

### Law/Gospel

I sin when I trust myself or my own deeds to please God. **God loves me and sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice for my sin. Through faith in Him, I am marked as God's child and receive His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.**

### Bible Words

God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.  
Romans 2:4

### Just Joking

*Where does the Bible talk about baseball?*

The Bible tells about "the big inning" (Genesis 1:1). Eve stole first; Adam stole second (Genesis 3:6). Cain struck out Abel (Genesis 4:8). The Prodigal Son came home (Luke 15:20). The Giant lost (1 Samuel 17:4, 50). The Angels announced the end result (Luke 2:13-14).

### Prayer

*Lord God, keep us in Your grace in Christ Jesus, now and forever. In His name we pray. Amen.*

## Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

**C**ain and Abel's conflict shows the original sibling rivalry, but it also shows the tragic result of sin in the world: murder and death. Since Adam and Eve sinned, all people are born in sin and all die.

Adam and Eve probably taught their children to worship God, but conflict began when Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord. Cain brought some of the harvest from his work as a farmer. Abel brought the firstborn from his flock. The offerings eventually became known as "firstfruits."

The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but not for Cain. Hebrews 11:4 explains, "By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts."

Cain became angry and took it out on his brother, killing him in a field. Still, God cared for Cain. Although He made Cain leave the family and wander the earth, God put a mark on him to protect him.

Sadly, Cain "went away from the presence of the LORD" (Genesis 4:16).

Thankfully, the Holy Spirit gives us life in God's presence, the grace of Christ our Savior, and forgiveness of sins through His Word and Sacraments (Ephesians 2:18-22).

## Firstfruit Offerings

Firstfruits refer to the first and best portion of the many gifts the Lord gives us. By offering firstfruits to the Lord, worshipers acknowledge that everything we have belongs to the Lord. He gives us His gifts to use and take care of. In thanks, we return the firstfruits to Him.

Yet, the gifts do not make offerings worthy in the eyes of the Lord. The Lord judges the heart of the person bringing the offering; the offering demonstrates the faith in God of the person who brings it.