



## Objectives

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### Main Objective

To show students that rebelling against the world for God is a good thing.

### Lesson Objective

To have students think about their relationship with Christ. To ask themselves if their life is an offering to God, is it pleasing to Him? The world teaches to look after no one but yourself; however, maybe it's not about you, but God.

## Video Idea

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**Out of Time** *Start Time: 47:15 Stop Time: 48:28*

Denzel Washington is a police chief in a small Florida town. He is investigating the murder of a woman he was secretly seeing. While he races to uncover a murky trail of stolen money, drugs, and deceit, the whole time the evidence points to him! In this clip, the chief of police (Denzel Washington) is eye witnessed as the suspect in the murder.

## Promotions For This Lesson

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Buy magnifying glasses at [www.orientaltradingcompany.com](http://www.orientaltradingcompany.com) and search for item numbers: IN-39/123 (\$6.95 per gross – 140 in a gross) and IN-39/1689 (\$4.95 for 4 dozen). You can attach the title of the lesson: A Murder Mystery (Anger, Jealousy, Murder, and Lies – The Death Of Abel) to the magnifying glasses by printing it on a sticker or with a string attached to a business card.

## Room Decorations

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Buy decorations that will imitate a police investigation scene. Such as police caution tape which can be found at: <http://www.familydefense.com/caution-tape-sale.htm> (one roll for \$5.99), a tape outline of a guy on the carpet, footprints, question marks, magnifying glasses, etc. Magnifying glasses are part of the promotions to hand out.

# Games

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Winking Murder Game found at this site:

<http://www.partygamecentral.com/pgcstandard/gametmpstd.asp?gn=WINKING+MURDER>

## Lesson Outline

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### Overview

Our life is an offering to God. We want student's to evaluate their life and see if their offering to God is pleasing to Him.

REMEMBER: This outline is not exhaustive. It is meant for you to add to or take away from. Adapt it to your students and your situation. The outline below addresses some frequent questions your students think, but may not ask out loud.

### Opening Thoughts

You can talk about how people give an offering each and every Sunday morning in church and if the students think that those offerings are the best those people have to offer. If it is, why do they feel that way? If it is not, why do they feel that way? If our life is an offering to Christ, would it be pleasing to Him?

### Outline

#### **1) Abel brought his best to God. Do we?**

Read Genesis 4:1-5

Cain brought forth an offering from the land he farmed, while Abel brought the fattest and the best of his flock. The problem God has with Cain's offering is not that it is from the ground or it wasn't enough compared to Abel's, it had to do with Cain's heart. Cain had a lack of motivation in bringing his best to God.

How often are we guilty of this? How often do we come to God or come to church with a lack of motivation to be there to worship Him? Are we giving our best to God? Can we honestly look at our lives and say we are giving all that we have and all that we are to God? How can we give our best to God? Maybe we should stop looking around us, and start looking within our own lives.

#### **2) Anger, Jealousy, Murder, and Lies – The Death of Abel**

Read Genesis 4:6-8

Why do you think Cain took such drastic actions to kill his own brother? In verse 4-5 we see that God looked with favor on Abel and did not look with favor on Cain. Maybe there is some jealousy at the root of this murder. The bottom line is that Cain let sin reign in his life. Sin kills. Look at verse 7, "sin is crouching at your door, it desires to have you, but you must master it." The devil is crouching at your door waiting for you to give him an opportunity to entice you away from God. Evaluate your life right now. Is sin dominating your thoughts, actions, behavior and life, or is God reigning as King and Lord of your life as He should be?

### **3) Running From Responsibility**

Read Genesis 4:9-16

Illustration: The story is told of four high school boys who couldn't resist the temptation to skip morning classes. Each had been gripped with a bad case of spring fever. After lunch they showed up at school and reported to the teacher that their car had a flat tire. Much to their relief, she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a quiz this morning, so take your seats and get out a pencil and paper."

Still smiling, she waited as they settled down and got ready for her questions. Then she said, "First question—which tire was flat?" (Source unknown)

Cain tries to do the same thing here – Lie. It's not to a teacher, it's to God Almighty. Also Cain gets a little mouthy to God saying, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Have you ever back talked your parents? Not a good thing. God does not look past Cain and his attitude, jealousy, murder, and now the lies.

Here's the thing, you can't run from God and you can't lie to God. He knows your heart and knows everything about you. Some of us in this room have been lying to God. We say one thing, but do another. We say "God I will live for you," but leave this room and lie straight to God by our lifestyle.

There is a punishment for Cain. He was banished from God's presence (see verse 14). In the same way, if we continue to deny God's grace and love in our lives and do our own thing, there will be consequences.

### **Closing Thoughts & Application**

If our life is an offering to God, would it be pleasing to Him?

- 1) Are you giving your first and best to God?
- 2) What is your attitude towards God? Is He just this cosmic guy in the sky or is He your King?

Set up an offering time. Not a money offering, but an offering of their hearts. Ask them "What are you willing to sacrifice this week for God?" Have them write it down along with a prayer to God and put in the offering plate. Put the offering place before the cross.

# Discussion Questions

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1. Why did God reject Cain's offering to Him?
2. What does God desire from us?
3. What can we do to get rid of the sin that slows us down in our relationship with God?

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

4. Why did Cain lie to God? How do we lie at times?
5. What was Cain's punishment? Was it fair?
6. How can we avoid Cain's fate?
7. Are you giving your best and first to God?
8. How can we come to Him with an offering that is pleasing in His sight?

# Promotions For Lesson #4

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Purchase a few bags of Swedish fish or gummy sharks (You'll need them for the game anyway!). If you have time, attach to each fish a little note that says, "Things seem a little fishy at our Student Ministry this week!" Then put your church, meeting time and an invitation. Ask your teens to pass it on to someone and invite them to join your meeting.