

# Hebrews 11:4 --> Abel

## **Leader Guide: Hebrews 11:4 & the Story of Abel**

"By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous... And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks." (Hebrews 11:4)

### **Big idea:**

Abel's story isn't mainly about what he did better than Cain, but about faith that looks beyond the outward act to trust in God's mercy. His faith points forward to Jesus, whose own blood "speaks a better word" (Hebrews 12:24).

## **Discussion Questions with Leader Notes & Suggested Answers**

### **1 Read Genesis 4:1–5. What made Abel's offering "more acceptable" than Cain's?**

*Leader notes:*

- The text focuses on *Abel's faith*, not the gift itself.
- Encourage the group not to see this as God liking one gift better.

*Suggested answer:* It wasn't the type or amount of offering, but Abel's heart of faith—trusting God, not relying on himself. Cain's offering was likely ritual without true trust.

### **2 How does Hebrews 11:4 show us that faith—not performance—is what God commends?**

*Leader notes:*

- Stress that faith is resting in God's grace, not self-righteousness.
- Abel trusted God; Cain trusted in the act.

*Suggested answer:* Abel was declared righteous because of faith, not because his sacrifice was outwardly better. God looks at the heart's trust, not just external obedience.

**3 Hebrews says, "Though he died, he still speaks." What is Abel's faith saying to us today?**

*Leader notes:*

- Ask the group to think beyond historical story—what does it teach?
- Tie back to the message of faith.

*Suggested answer:* His life and death testify that genuine faith pleases God, and that true worship comes from a trusting heart, not empty ritual.

**4 Read Hebrews 12:24. How does Jesus' blood "speak a better word than the blood of Abel"?**

*Leader notes:*

- Contrast: Abel's blood cries for justice; Jesus' blood cries for mercy.
- Focus on Christ as fulfillment.

*Suggested answer:* Abel's blood highlighted guilt and demanded judgment; Jesus' blood brings forgiveness and peace, speaking grace to sinners.

**5 In what ways is Abel's faith a foreshadowing of Christ?**

*Leader notes:*

- Draw parallels: righteous, innocent, offering, murdered.
- Invite group to see gospel threads.

*Suggested answer:* Like Jesus, Abel was righteous, offered an acceptable sacrifice, and was killed by one opposed to him. His story points to the greater sacrifice and vindication of Christ.

**6 Why do you think faith always produces true worship, as seen in Abel?**

*Leader notes:*

- Faith and worship are deeply connected.
- Worship is an overflow of trust and gratitude.

*Suggested answer:* When we trust God, we naturally honor Him with what we have. Abel's sacrifice flowed from faith; it wasn't to earn favor, but to express trust and love.

**7 What warning does Cain's story offer us about approaching God apart from faith?**

*Leader notes:*

- Cain still made an offering, but without faith or repentance.
- Warns of empty religion.

*Suggested answer:* Religious acts without faith can harden the heart and breed jealousy or bitterness, as we try to earn acceptance instead of trusting God's grace.

**8 What would it look like for our worship and daily lives to be marked by the same faith Abel had?**

*Leader notes:*

- Make it practical.
- Help group see faith isn't just Sunday worship but everyday life.

*Suggested answer:* Serving and giving with joy, trusting God's promises when unseen, obeying out of gratitude rather than duty, and offering our best as a response to His grace.

**✝ Key Old Testament reference:**

- Genesis 4:1–10 – Story of Cain and Abel

**🔑 Key Christ-centered New Testament cross-references:**

- Hebrews 11:4 – Faith commended
- Hebrews 12:24 – Jesus' blood speaks a better word
- 1 John 3:12 – Cain's deeds were evil, Abel's were righteous