



#27 - Adam's Line Genesis 4:17-26

PICTURES NEEDED

27-1 Cavemen

27-3 Chart of Adam's line

27-2 Adam's Family

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What was the difference between the offering of Cain and that of Abel? What did Cain see as being the problem? What did he do to Abel? What was his punishment?
- **The Big Question Review: Why did Cain murder Abel?**
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** 1 John 3:12 Cain followed Satan and chose to do evil.

Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

When you see pictures of the first people on earth what do they usually depict? (picture 27-1) Cavemen are usually depicted as the first people. Pictures of cavemen are used to promote the idea of evolution.

What is evolution? Evolution is the belief that all the majesty and complex design of the physical world and living things came into existence without a creator God through small changes over billions and billions of years. Humanists are people who believe in evolution and reject the idea of God as creator. They hold the idea that humanity and society are both progressing upward toward perfection.

Why do evolutionists think mankind and creation are progressing upward? If all living organisms started from one original cell then everything is gradually becoming more and more complex and each subsequent organism is more evolved than the previous.

This view is also taken of history, which humanists believe is evolving toward perfection, meaning that people and societies started simple and are becoming more complex. That is why they picture the first men as cavemen. Eventually, as mankind continues to evolve people will become perfect.

Why do Christians believe mankind and creation are moving downward? The biblical view is that man started at perfection and is deteriorating or moving downward and falling apart. Because of the Fall, everything in creation is deteriorating. Man is not evolving to a higher state of behavior; he has fallen to a lower one. Without his evil being kept in check, man will become increasingly worse. Cavemen would be evidence of a breakdown of a society, not evolution.

If creation was a real event then both physical and historical evidence should support the account recorded in the Bible. Let's think about the history of man and how he started out. We can do that by reviewing some of the things we have studied so far. Genesis 1:27 says, *God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;*

What do you think the fact that Adam was created in the image of God means about Adam and his abilities? (picture 27-2) God created Adam in his image and said that his creation was very good. That means Adam had the necessary mind and abilities to live well and rightly. He would have been brilliant as he would have had a perfectly functioning brain and used it fully. He would have understood the natural laws God put in place at creation and the function and purpose of all things God created. However, even being brilliant didn't stop him from rebelling against God. From the beginning man has chosen to go his own way apart from God. Very smart people can do very wrong things.

Genesis 2:19-20 says, *Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.*

What does this passage say about Adam? From the beginning Adam had language. He interacted and talked with God. He had the ability to name all the animals. He could pass on information using a complex language. He didn't make cavemen grunts. In fact ancient languages are known to be more precise and complex than modern ones.

Genesis 2:8-9 says, Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What was the world like in the beginning? In the beginning the world (environment) Adam and Eve lived in was perfect and provided everything they needed to live forever. Even after the fall it was still good compared to what we experience now.

Scientists can tell from the evidence of fossils that in the past plants and animals grew to great sizes. This can be attributed to different factors, two of which would have been more oxygen in the atmosphere and greater air pressure. In the beginning earth was a very good place to live. It was a healthy environment for men which contributed to long life.

What were the occupations of Cain and Abel? We have learned that Cain was a farmer and Abel was shepherd. They weren't simple hunters and gatherers. They weren't cave-men.

More about them and early people can be learned from reading about Adam's line. Genesis 4:17 says, *¹⁷Cain lay with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch.*

What does building a city tell us about Cain's ability and the society he lived in?

The society was complex and interdependent. Cain had organizational, engineering and construction skills.

The account goes on to tell of Cain's descendants:

Genesis 4:18-22

¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech. ¹⁹Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute. ²²Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah.

What did Jabal do for an occupation? (20) Jabal took care of livestock. He was a shepherd. He and his family lived in tents. That distinction means that others lived in permanent homes. They raised domesticated animals (livestock).

What did Jubal do for an occupation? (21) Jubal was a musician. Having people engaged in music demonstrates a developed culture.

What did Tubal-Cain do for an occupation? (22) Tubal-Cain was a blacksmith. He made useful items from both bronze and iron metal. They had metal tools and could presumably use metal in many other ways including the building of structures or boats.

What do these verses say about the society of early man? The society they lived in was diversified, complex and sophisticated. Not everyone was involved in agriculture and farming methods were advanced enough to support a city. There was music and culture and they used metal tools.

In terms of personal character, the line of Cain continued in the evil pattern Cain had established. **(picture 27-3)**

Genesis 4:25-26

²³Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. ²⁴If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times."

What does Lamech's bragging about murder tell you about Cain's lineage? Lamech was a proud and violent man who had no respect for the value of human life. He reflected the character of the man he was descended from and the condition of the society he lived in. He thought he was his own person and could do what he wanted. He didn't see himself as being accountable to God. He had no fear of God.

(picture 27-3) The line of Adam that can be traced down to Noah and on to Jesus began with the birth of another son, Seth. *²⁵Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." ²⁶Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.*

What was different about Seth and his son from Cain and his? Seth and his sons called on God. They had a relationship with their Creator. Cain and his son did evil.

As we study the history of mankind, we need to keep in mind how the character of the parents affects their children. Psalm 112:1-2 says, *Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.*

What is the impact that Cain and Seth had on their descendants? Cain's descendants followed his ungodly character and died out while Seth's line called on the name of the Lord and led to Jesus. The way that parents live influences the direction their children choose to go. That is something you need to consider as you grow into adulthood. You need to think about what kind of person you want to become and what kind of heritage you want to pass on to your children.

The pattern for your adult life will in large part be set in place when you are a child. What you choose to believe and follow as a child either puts you on a path leading to God or away from God. Only the path going to God leads to blessing. You need to consider carefully which path you are following.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What kind of occupations did men have in the beginning? What was the difference between Cain's offspring and Seth's offspring? How does the way parents live their lives affect their children?
- **Thought Questions:** What is the definition of evil? Why do you think Cain wanted to follow evil? What is it about evil that attracts people? What do people who reject evil and go God's way recognize?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that he is both the creator and sustainer of the earth. Thank him that even though men reject him he is loving and long-suffering. Thank him that you can trust his Word even when others reject him. Pray that as you study history you will learn more about how important it is to follow God and his truth and that you would want to stay on God's path.
- **The Big Question: What is the impact of an upright father?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Psalm 112:1-2** The children of the righteous will be blessed.

Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Questions: What does it mean to be upright? What happens to the children of the upright? Why?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.
Theme: The children of Adam and Eve began to populate the earth. They were farmers, shepherds, musicians and blacksmiths.
 1. Cain built a city and his offspring were violent and didn't follow God.
 2. Adam and Eve had another son named Seth. His family called on the name of the Lord.
 3. Those whose families follow God are blessed.
- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

★ **Activity Page:** Crossword Puzzle

Instructions: Fill in the crossword puzzle with words from the lesson.

City – What Cain built and named after Enoch.

Animals – What Adam gave names to.

Livestock – The animals Jabal's line raised.

Flute – An instrument Jubal's line played

Bronze – A metal Tubal-Cain made tools from.

Seth – The son God gave to Adam and Eve after Abel was killed

Occupation – The type of work a person does.

Lord – The name Seth's family called upon

★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Genesis 5:1-32

As you read the account of Adam's descendants through his son Seth have the students follow along on the timeline on the back of the journal sheet and fill in the age of how old each man was when he died.

¹This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ²He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man."

³When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. ⁴After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁵Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

⁶When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. ⁷And after he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters.

⁸Altogether, Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.

⁹When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰And after he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹¹Altogether, Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.

¹²When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³And after he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Altogether, Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.

¹⁵When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. ¹⁶And after he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷Altogether, Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹And after he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰Altogether, Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.

²¹When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²²And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. ²⁴Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

²⁵When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶And after he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Altogether, Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. ²⁹He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed." ³⁰After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons

and daughters. ³¹Altogether, Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died. ³²After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Note on the chart: The number inside the box is the number of years the person lived. The journal sheets do not have any numbers. The students should write in the number of years the person lived.

1. Why would a lot of people have trouble believing that Genesis is an accurate account of history with men living to be so old? People think things in the past have been like they are now. It is hard to comprehend how men could have lived for so long. However, the Jews to whom this account was passed down didn't doubt its accuracy.
2. Why would men have lived to be so old? The environment of the earth was very good in the beginning. Remember God designed men to be able to live forever.
3. What would long life have enabled men to do? A lot more could have been learned by one individual. There would have been an accumulation of both personal and cultural knowledge. There would have been greater understanding of how things worked in the natural world and problem solving ability would have been incredible.
4. What kind of information and stories do you think Adam would have passed on? Things God taught him in the beginning. What happened in the Garden of Eden.
5. Who is the last person Adam would have been able to pass information and stories on to? Lamech
6. Who could Noah have learned from? Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Methuselah and Lamech. Who could all these men have learned from? All these men could have learned directly from Adam as they lived at the same time.
7. What did you learn about history that you haven't thought about or been taught before? (You can also share what you've learned.)
8. What was the average life span of the descendants of Adam before the flood? To figure out the average length of life add all the ages together and divide by the number of people which is nine. (7,625 divided by 9 = 847) Ask the students to guess what the average life span currently is in the U.S., Japan, South Africa, etc. Current statistics can be found by going to:
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>.

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: What is the impact of a righteous father?

Reading 1: Psalm 112:1-10 A righteous man will be remembered forever. Who is blessed? What does a righteous man do? What does the blessing of a righteous man consist of? What happens to a wicked man?

Reading 2: Psalm 127 Sons are a heritage from God. What does verse 1 mean? How does God build a house? How are sons a heritage from God?

Reading 3: Psalm 128 Blessing and prosperity belong to a righteous man. How does God bless those who fear him and walk in his ways?

Reading 4: Proverbs 10:1-7 The memory of the righteous will be a blessing. What is the difference between the life of the wise and the wicked? What does it mean that the memory of the righteous will be a blessing?

Reading 5: Deuteronomy 7:7-16 God is faithful to keep his covenant with those who love him. What is God like? What does God do for those who love him and keep his commands? What happens to those who hate God?

Reading 6: Exodus 20:4-6 Family Heritage
Talk with your parents about your family heritage and the impact it has had on you as a family. Think of the ways your family has been blessed or harmed by your ancestors or those who came before you.

Think about what leads you into sin. Reflect on how you have a choice to think about and then do the things of God or to dwell on wrong thinking and do what is wrong.