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“Abel”

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Genesis is our summer reading book this year.

Genesis is full of **glimpses of Jesus**.

Together, these glimpses give us a **deeper understanding** of our Lord.

Today’s glimpse comes through **Abel**.

The account of Abel is found in **Genesis 4**.

Genesis 4:2-8

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 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.”

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

The **first** shepherd provides a glimpse of a **future** Shepherd.

John 10:11-16

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

Abel’s **sacrifice** provides a glimpse of Jesus’ **sacrifice**. (Hebrews 11:4; 12:22-24)

Today, we celebrate Jesus who **laid down His life** for His sheep.

For next week, read Genesis 6-9.