

## Day 3: BEST PEOPLE

### The family God put us in and God's people around us

#### Song: Tending, Keeping

<sup>D</sup> 1. Tending, keeping; all the <sup>Dm</sup> sheep are <sup>A7</sup> sleeping

This is my job and I like it so;

<sup>D</sup> Shepherd the sheep and then see them grow

Watch for a wolf or lion or bear  
<sup>B</sup> <sup>E</sup>

<sup>A7</sup> Guard all day long the sheep in my care.  
<sup>D</sup>

Yes, I have so many, I've plenty to share;  
<sup>G</sup> <sup>C#</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>F#</sup>

<sup>E</sup> <sup>A7</sup> <sup>D</sup> For I am a tender of sheep!

2. Dad's way! Mom's way!  
Keeping sheep in God's way.  
Abel (able!) I am, and I'm ready to go;  
Out where the grass is, and waters flow.  
This is the way my parents said:  
Feed them and wash them and put them to bed.  
They leap where it's steep, then sleep so deep!  
I'm happy I'm tending the sheep.

#### Verses:

**Gen. 3:20-21** And the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And Jehovah God made coats of skin for Adam and for his wife and clothed them.

#### **Gen. 4:1b -12**

1b...and she conceived and gave birth to Cain and said, I have acquired a man, Jehovah.

2 And again she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a tender of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground.

4 And Abel also brought *an offering*, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering.

5 But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. And Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell.

6 And Jehovah said to Cain, Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?

7 If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and his desire is for you, but you must rule over him.

8 And Cain said to Abel his brother, Let us go into the field. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him.

9 Then Jehovah said to Cain, Where is Abel your brother? And he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?

10 And He said, What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying out to Me from the ground.

11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

12 When you till the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you. You will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.

### **Reading:**

When God formed the first family, He designed it with Adam and Eve as dad and mom, in charge of the family. He also helped Adam and Eve to be clear how they were to worship God. Adam and Eve surely told their first two sons, Cain and Abel, that God had taught them that they were to offer sheep as sacrifices to Him. Abel learned from his parents to raise sheep and to offer from the herd of sheep sacrifices to God. Cain, however, did not take God's way that was handed down to him from Adam and Eve. He had his own idea of what to offer to God! The result of Cain choosing His own way rather than God's way taught by his parents was that God did not regard, or accept, Cain's offering. Upset about this, Cain struck his brother Abel, and Abel died. This brought a curse upon Cain and his descendents. God gives us the best people – a family and others around us – to help us know Him and His way. Those around us can be our protection if we respect them, listen to them and learn from them.

**Family Chat: See next page**

## **Family Chat:**

1. How do you think Abel got the idea to become a tender of sheep and offer from his flock to God?
2. Why did God not have regard for, or accept, Cain's offering?
3. If we want to stay under God's blessing, what does the Bible say we need to do in relation to our parents?
4. Have you (parents or children) had any experiences of following what your parents said to do and realizing that this was the best way?
5. Or, have you had any experiences of not following your parents and regretting it afterwards?