

Ages 3-6: Two Offerings

Materials Needed

Two Offerings Template for each child, cotton balls, glue, dried grains and/or beans, crayons or markers

Prepare in Advance

Print a copy of the *Two Offerings Template* for each child. Gather other supplies.

Two brothers, Cain and Abel, brought offerings to the Lord. Cain was a farmer. He brought crops that grew in the ground. Abel was a shepherd. He brought an animal from his flocks. Children will create a project that shows what Cain and Abel brought to the Lord.



1. One day, Cain and Abel both brought offerings to the Lord to thank Him for all the wonderful things He had given them. They each brought something that came from the kind of work they did.
2. Cain was a farmer. He grew food in the ground. What kinds of food grow in the ground? (vegetables such as beans and grains such as rice or wheat)
3. Abel was a shepherd. He tended flocks. Flocks are gentle animals like sheep.
4. Give children the *Two Offerings* template and crayons or markers. Color the plant stem and the lamb's head and legs.
5. Hand out glue and instruct the children to put glue on the tops of the stems. Sprinkle the grains/beans on the glue.
6. Give children cotton balls. Invite them to pull the balls apart to make a woolly coat for the lamb. Then spread glue on the lamb and place the woolly coat on it.

New Church Concept

Teacher Background

'And...Cain brought forward some of the fruit of the ground as an offering to Jehovah.' The fruit of the ground means doing what faith requires without loving others. An offering to Jehovah means the worship rising out of those deeds. See *Arcana Coelestia* 346

'And Abel...brought forward some of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And Jehovah looked on Abel and on his offering.' Abel here symbolizes charity.... The firstborn of the flock symbolize holiness, which is exclusively the Lord's. The fat symbolizes the actual quality of heaven, which is also the Lord's. Jehovah looked on Abel and on his offering means that everything connected with charity was pleasing to the Lord, as was all worship springing from charity. See *Arcana Coelestia* 350

New Church Concept

Teacher Background

"'Cain's anger was set ablaze' means that charity had departed. This becomes clear...where it is said that he killed Abel his brother, who means charity. Anger is the general emotion that results from anything which gets in the way of self-love and its desires. In the world of evil spirits this is perceived plainly. Indeed general anger against the Lord prevails, because they are not moved at all by charity, but only by hatred. Anything that is unfavorable to self-love and the love of the world arouses opposition, which manifests itself in anger." *Arcana Coelestia* 357

"'Jehovah said to Cain' was the dictate of conscience. 'Anger has been set ablaze and the face has fallen' means... the departure of charity and the change that took place in interiors." *Arcana Coelestia* 359

