

Lesson 2

Genesis 4–11

The following assignments include various learning activities, such as questions, lists, essays, charts, comparisons, contrasts, and surveys. To receive credit for this lesson, you must complete the number of assignments indicated below and submit them to your institute instructor or administrator. You may submit your work either electronically or on paper, handwritten or typed.

Each lesson should take approximately 60–90 minutes to complete, the same amount of time you would typically spend in a weekly institute class. Since reading the scripture block listed in the lesson heading is expected of all institute students prior to class, the estimated time for each assignment does not include the time you need to spend reading the scripture block.

Complete the following assignments:

1. Genesis 4:1–16; Moses 5:16–41. Cain and Abel

- a. Read Genesis 4:1–8; Moses 5:18–19 and the Old Testament institute student manual commentary for Genesis 4:4–8, “But unto Cain and His Offering He Had Not Respect” (p. 52). Write a summary of what Joseph Smith taught about Cain’s offering and why it was not accepted by God. Give some examples of how offerings from members of the Church can become unacceptable to the Lord today.
- b. Read Genesis 4:8–9. After Cain killed Abel, the Lord asked him, “Where is Abel thy brother?” Cain’s answer shows his selfishness and contempt toward others, including the Lord. Read Luke 10:27–37 and write an explanation of how you think the Lord’s question to Cain in verse 9 applies to us today.
- c. Make a list of Cain’s sinful acts as recorded in Genesis 4:3–9; Moses 5:16–33.
- d. Cain had a choice to make after his sacrifice was not accepted by the Lord. Read Genesis 4:7 and mark in your scriptures what the Lord said to him. Compare that statement with Joshua 24:15; 2 Nephi 2:27; Alma 3:26–27. What does the account of Cain and Abel teach about agency?

- e. Read Genesis 4:10–16; Moses 5:35–41. Describe in writing Cain’s punishment for disobeying God and killing his brother. How did Cain feel about his punishment? Cross-reference verse 13 with Alma 12:13–15. Why do you think Cain struggled to accept God’s punishment?

2. Genesis 4–6; Moses 6–7. Whom God Calls, He Qualifies

- a. Read Moses 6:26–31 and answer the following questions in writing:
 - How did the Lord describe the people of Enoch’s day?
 - What did Enoch say about his calling from the Lord?
- b. From Moses 6:32–39, 47; 7:13–18, 69 describe in writing how the Lord strengthened and sustained Enoch. Write a paragraph or two on how you have seen the Lord do similar things for you or someone you know.
- c. The Bible does not say much about Enoch and his people—it contains 109 words about Enoch and his day. By contrast, the Joseph Smith Translation account of Enoch in the book of Moses contains 5,240 words about Enoch’s day. Read Genesis 5:22–24; Moses 6:27–29, 47; 7:1–21 and summarize in writing what you find.

3. Genesis 6–10. A New Beginning

- a. From Genesis 6:2, 5, 11; Moses 8:14–30 make a list of the prevailing sins of Noah’s day. Write a sentence or two comparing them to sins of today.
- b. In Genesis 6:1–2 there is reference to the “sons of God” and “daughters of men.” Read the student manual commentary for Genesis 6:1–2, 21, “What Is Meant by the ‘Sons of God’ and the ‘Daughters of Men’?” (p. 53). From Genesis 6:1–2, 12 write a comparison of what was happening in Noah’s day and what is happening today.
- c. Read Genesis 6:9–22, the student manual commentary for Genesis 6:9, “The Man Noah” (p. 54), as well as the Bible Dictionary entry

- on Noah. How does Doctrine and Covenants 76:69 help us understand Genesis 6:9? Then describe Noah's faith and what impresses you most about him.
- d. Read the student manual commentary for "The Flood Was an Act of Love" (pp. 55–56). Summarize what President John Taylor (1808–1887) said about the Flood being an act of love.
- e. Read Genesis 9:1–17 and the student manual commentary for "The Rainbow as a Token of the Covenant" (pp. 56–57). Describe in writing the covenant God made with Noah and the significance of the rainbow.
- f. Read Genesis 10:25 and the student manual commentary for Genesis 10:25, "Was the Earth Divided in the Days of Peleg?" (p. 58). Briefly describe in writing what kind of a division this was and was not. How does this affect our future?
- 4. Genesis 11:1–9. A Tower to Reach Heaven**
- a. Read Genesis 11:1–9; Helaman 6:28; Ether 1:3–4 and write your answers to the following questions:
- What was the stated purpose of building a tower?
 - Why do you think this angered the Lord?
 - What did God do to scatter the people?
 - Read Ether 1:33–43 and summarize in writing how the Jaredites from the Book of Mormon fit into this story.
- b. As is typical with Satan's tactics, he will take a truth and twist it into a counterfeit. Note that the people building the tower of Babel tried to make a name for themselves, while the followers of the Lord willingly take His name upon them. Read Acts 4:12; Mosiah 3:17; 5:7–15; Doctrine and Covenants 18:21–25 and write two to three paragraphs about how we can receive "a name" (Genesis 11:4) that will truly help us reach heaven.