

# CAIN OR CHRIST

Distribute **Bibles** and invite five volunteers to read dramatically Genesis 4:1-16, assigning these parts: narrator, Eve, Cain and the Lord. Before the reading, explain that this story features the first act of violence recorded in the Bible. As you listen to the reading, try to identify the source of the violence.

Invite the volunteers to present their reading, then discuss:

- Why does Cain kill his brother? What was Cain feeling? Why?
- To what extent is the source of Cain's violence the source of *all* violence?
- What is the result of Cain's act of violence?
- To what extent is this result also the result of today's violence?

Ask a volunteer to read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 as other group members follow along. Discuss:

- While Genesis 4 talks of the source of violence, St. Paul describes the cure for violence. What provision has God made for sin and violence?
- How does one take part in God's cure for violence?

*Questions for deeper discussion:*

- What does this comparison of Cain and Christ say about the possibilities for our families?
- How could God's cure for violence change today's battles between rival gangs? the physical and sexual abuse of children? hate crimes against Jews, African-Americans, gays and other targeted groups?