

Who is the ENEMY?

Lesson 1 • August 7
The Serpent

We have a Creator. He's my Creator and your Creator. We are introduced to him in [Genesis 1-2](#). We learn from the very beginning of the Bible that our Creator has the right to:

- * Put us where he wants us.
- * Give us a choice.
- * Command us.
- * Hold us accountable.

But we are also introduced to an enemy in the earliest chapters of the Bible—the greatest enemy of all.

“He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ([John 8:44](#))

Who is this enemy and how did he make such a mess from the very beginning?

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

([Gen 3:1-7](#))

How did the enemy deceive and destroy?

- ➔ He challenged God's will. ([3:1](#))
- ➔ He twisted God's words. ([3:1](#))
- ➔ He lied about the consequences of disobeying God. ([3:4](#))
- ➔ He encouraged Eve to doubt God's goodness. ([3:5](#))

And ever since, sin has been our biggest problem. When I sin, I...

- ◆ Take what isn't mine.
- ◆ Do what I want to do.
- ◆ Do what is good in my own eyes.

...and that's a really big deal with really big consequences. Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's think about what God has shared with us in **Genesis 1-2**. Can you find a verse or two in these chapters that show us our Creator has the right to:
 - * Put us where he wants us?
 - * Command us?
 - * Give us a choice?
 - * Hold us accountable?

- A liar is someone who...

- What did Jesus mean in **John 8:44** when he described Satan as “a liar and the father of lies”?

- Let's think through those four points in **Genesis 3**. Why is it a very dangerous thing to:
 - ➔ Challenge God's will?
 - ➔ Twist God's words?
 - ➔ Lie about the consequences of disobeying God?
 - ➔ Encourage anyone to doubt God's goodness?

- According to **Deuteronomy 10:12-13**, why has God commanded and warned us?

- What is sin? Our video summarized it as taking what isn't mine, doing what *I* want to do instead of what God wants me to do, or ignoring what God has said and doing what is good in my own eyes. Can you think of some examples? Why is all of that a really bad idea?

- Back in **John 8:44**, Jesus described Satan as “a murderer from the beginning.” Why? What happened in **Genesis 3** that would make Jesus say that sort of thing?