

Who is the **ENEMY?**

Lesson 3 • August 21 The Snake Slithers Through History

God made a promise in [Genesis 3:15](#) to that lying serpent, the father of lies, the deceiver of the world:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

But when? This serpent slithered through human history long after Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden. In fact, let’s focus in on what the very next chapter tells us about their two sons—Cain and Abel.

Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ([Gen 4:2-8](#))

By the time we reach the days of Noah in [Genesis 6](#), just listen to the sad description:

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ([6:5-6](#))

What was happening? *Why* was it happening? The snake was slithering through history...

- ❖ Abraham lies
- ❖ His great-grandsons sell their brother Joseph into slavery
- ❖ Pharaoh has babies thrown into the Nile River
- ❖ The children of Israel build a golden calf
- ❖ King David takes another man’s wife
- ❖ King Solomon allows his hundreds of wives to lead his heart away from God

Each one of these people—just like Adam and Eve in [Genesis 3](#)—chose who they were going to listen to and how they were going to act. But we need to think very carefully about the way Satan is described in [Job 1:6-7](#).

When the LORD asked where he had been, the devil answered, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” The serpent caused problems long after Eden.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- According to [Genesis 4:5](#), when did things begin to get seriously off track for Cain? Can anger still get us in really serious trouble today? Let's open our Bibles back to [James 1:19-21](#) and read that warning from God together. What do we need to understand and remember?

- How would you put what God said to Cain in your own words: "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted?"

- Let's focus in on God's warning to Cain in [Genesis 4:7](#). What should we learn from:
 - "Sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you"?

 - "But you must rule over it"?

- Many of the examples in our video are people who sometimes showed great faith. [Hebrews 11](#) even points to several of them as examples of faith we can learn from. But what sad reality are we taught in [Romans 3:23](#) and [6:23](#)?

- It's important for us to understand how we can get "bit" by this serpent today and maybe the clearest description is in [James 1:13-15](#). What stands out to you as you read that passage?

- If those examples in our video were "bit" by this ancient serpent and we continue to be "bit" by the serpent, what do we need?

- Maybe [Luke 5:27-32](#) and [19:10](#) would be a good passage to read at this point. Why is what Jesus said really, really good news?