

Lesson: Genesis 4-6

From a place of harmony, beauty, happiness, and all things good... to fallen. You might say, what a devastating and disgraceful decline, but isn't the best part the road to redemption? Redemption is powerful and empowering and worthwhile and satisfying, all at the same time. There is Joy in the journey of overcoming. This journey of overcoming started so long ago with Adam and Eve and started for us individually when born. If we can find God's grace in Adam and Eve's failure we can see God's grace and have hope in everything.

In these chapters we see that evil tries to take a foothold, to secure position for further failure, to swallow up the light and hide the truth of God and God's awesome love. We see this demonstrated when jealousy and anger arose from Cain. When God did not accept Cain's offering, Cain's emotions took hold. Cain was deceived into believing that God did not love him because God did not accept his offering. But this was not so. God loved Cain, but God knows our hearts, and God warned Cain to not let sin trap him, "You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master" (Genesis 4:7).

Bible Study

We see how evil and negativity took a foothold by deceiving Cain into thinking God does not love him (and into the future of humanity we see this lie turn from God doesn't love you to there is no God) and yes, these tricks, lies, and deception of the enemy still persists today. We also see how this deception put Cain against his brother Abel leading to Abel's death by Cain's hands. From here we see the influence of evil continue to persist and grow as the world filled with more and more people. As the world grew more dysfunctional, God grew more upset "The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time"(Genesis 6: 5), but our God is a God of order and His light will shine in the darkness, "God saw how corrupted the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth" (Genesis 6:12-13).

So, we see God's order and righteousness, and we also see His grace when He redeems Noah and his family from being destroyed in the flood. Noah walked with God and so found favor with God, and God established a new covenant with him.

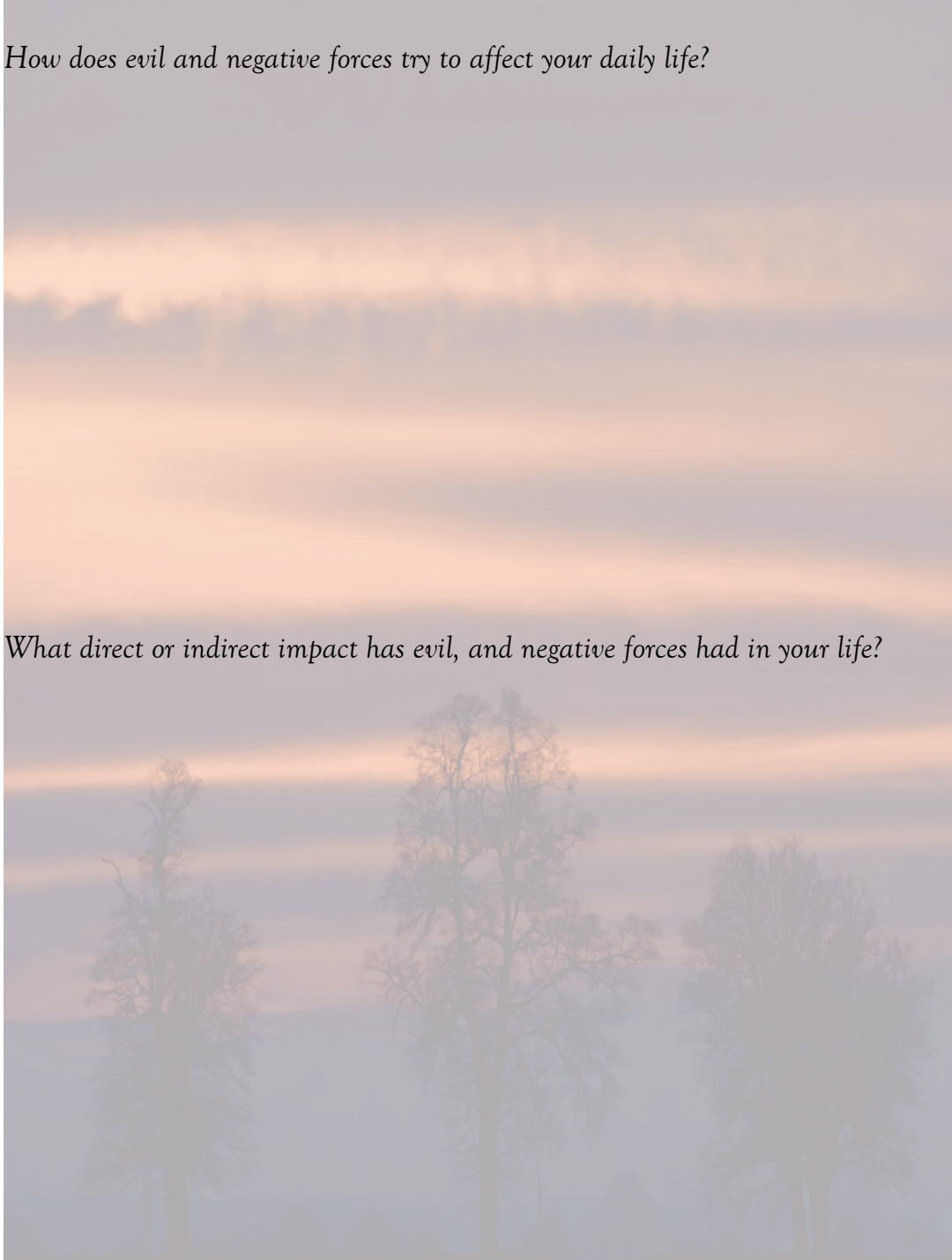
Take-away: Evil and negative forces have been around since the beginning of man and is opposed to God's truth and love/ Evil seeks to deceive, trap, and destroy us, and turn us against one another/ There is always hope in a brighter future with God/ God sees our redeeming qualities when we walk with Him/ God is righteous and merciful.

Devotional

Genesis 4-6

How does evil and negative forces try to affect your daily life?

What direct or indirect impact has evil, and negative forces had in your life?



Devotional

What is your experience with redemption and overcoming?

What are your redeeming qualities?