

REDEMPTION, HOPE & HEALING



questions for reflection

series: "Redemption, Hope & Healing"

The Bible tells the stories of many broken, damaged and dented people. Some were murders, thieves and liars, while others were prostitutes, cowards and hypocrites. The Bible recounts the stories of people whom, despite their failures and faults, God still loved and used in order to tell his story of grace, mercy and forgiveness. This summer we are going to retell these stories and seek to understand how God can bring redemption, hope, and healing into our own lives.

part 2:

"Cain: Temptation, Consequences & Grace"

by Chip Anderson on Tuesday June 16, 2009

What is the difference between temptation and sin?

At what point does temptation become sin?

Can you remember a time when you were tempted, but did not give into temptation?

- How did you feel?
- What were you thinking?
- What made it possible for you to withstand the temptation?

In the last month, how have you experienced consequences from ways you've sinned?

- How about in the last year?

Have the consequences of your actions ever limited you from doing or being whatever you wanted to?

How can grace and consequences coexist?

James 1:13-15

These verses reveal the inner workings of temptation and sin.

- What wants and desires tempt and drag you away?
- How have you seen temptation "give birth" to sin in the life of others? In yourself?
- When are you most vulnerable to temptation?
- How does being hungry, angry, lonely or tired play into your temptations?

I Corinthians 10:13

- This is a profound, but challenging verse. What thoughts stand out to you?
- This passage implies that sin is always a choice. Do you agree? Have you had experiences that felt otherwise?
- If God always provides a way out of temptation leading to sin, think about how that pattern has or has not worked out in your own struggles. Are there ways where you had a way out of temptation but didn't take it?

After being questioned by God, Cain fires back with a question of his own, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

- How would you answer this question?
- Are there people you are responsible for?
- Who is responsible for you?
- What roles can a church community or home group play in helping people stay out of trouble?