



Lesson 42 God Heals snakebites

Scriptural Basis:



Numbers 21

Overview:

Having been denied passage through Edom, the Israelites take the long way around. Along the way, Aaron comes to the end of his life and is laid to rest on mount Hor. The position of High Priest passes to his son Eleazar. In their long journey around Edom, the Israelites once again grumble against God. God responds by sending venomous snakes among them, and many Israelites die as a result. The Israelites beg Moses to pray to God to take the snakes away. God instructs Moses to craft a bronze snake and lift it up on a pole so that anyone who is bitten can look at the snake and be healed.

Things to consider:

Rather than remove the snakes, God provides a seemingly strange solution to the snakebite problem. In Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus (John 3), He tells Nicodemus that "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man (Jesus) must be lifted up."

The gospel in the story:



Without the cure provided by God, the snakebites were lethal. In the same way, the Bible tells us that without salvation – which comes through Jesus – sin leads to death. When the Israelites repented of their sin, God provided a cure. The cure for the snakebites was to trust in God's way by looking to the snake on the pole. In a similar way, Scripture tells us to repent and "look" to Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) and putting our faith in Him.

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read Numbers 20:14-21:9, John 3:1-18, and Hebrews 12:2. The Israelites may have been plagued with the snakes for some time, and apparently they set up the bronze snake wherever they camped. In that way, God gave them a lasting cure for snakebites. Similarly, though sin and temptation still surround us, God has defeated Satan sin and death, and through His Holy Spirit, gives us power over sin in our lives.

Preparing for the lesson:

- A: Review the teacher page and handout for previous lesson(s), particularly Lesson 41.
- B: Read and meditate on Scripture
- C. Research/plan Lesson presentation:
- E. Research/plan Additional activity, craft and/or music:

Teaching the lesson:

- A: Review – last week: water from a rock (again). See Numbers 20
- B: Bible verse memory activity
- C. Story
- D. Additional activity