



## The Bronze Snake

**Bible Passage:** Numbers 20-21

**Bottom Line:** I can believe in Christ and be saved from my sin and have a relationship with God.

**Key Passage:** <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Big Picture Question:** What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

**Christ Connection:** *The Israelites faced a huge problem because of their sin. God sent snakes to punish Israel, but anyone who was bitten could look at the bronze snake on the pole and live. Because of our sin, we face a huge problem: we are separated from God. We deserve to die, but anyone who looks to Jesus on the cross and trusts in Him will live forever with God.*

### 10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

#### Remember This

**What You Need:** dry erase board, dry erase marker and eraser, paper, tape

#### What You Do:

- Write a 10 digit number on a dry erase board. (example: 5553017838, you can use phone numbers)
- Guide kids to read the number aloud one time together.
- Then tape paper over the number to conceal it and challenge kids to say the number from memory.
- Uncover the number and allow them to read the number 2 more times.
- Cover the number.
- Ask volunteers to recite the number.
- Erase the number and write 5 random words.
- Invite kids to read the words once.
- Then cover them and challenge kids to recite the words.
- Uncover the words so kids can read them 2 more times.
- Cover the words and ask volunteers to recite them.
- Repeat as time allows.
- Ask kids to tell you the number you gave them earlier. And then the words.

**What You Say** "This is not a test, but it sure helps us see how fast we learn something right? Studies show that when you read something for the first time, you remember 10-25 percent of it. When you read it 2-3 times, you remember 90 percent of it. Repetition helps us remember! In our stories coming up we are going to look at the Israelites moving into the promised land. God is keeping His promises but the people are having a hard time remembering God's promise and following Him. Let's see what is going on today.

### 10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

### 15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

#### CONTEXT

The Israelites had been wandering in the wilderness when they complained to Moses and to God. God had done some pretty amazing things for the Israelites—He rescued them from the hand of Pharaoh, He parted the Red Sea so they could safely cross, and He provided manna for them to eat. But to the Israelites, this wasn't enough.

God disciplined them because He knew their dissatisfaction was a sign of a bigger issue: a heart problem, a sin problem. They stopped believing that God is good. In their hearts, the Israelites believed the same lie that rattled Eve in the garden.



Maybe God isn't interested in giving us what is best. Maybe He is holding out on us.

God sent venomous snakes that bit the people and killed many of them. The Israelites repented. They wanted Moses to ask God to take away the snakes. God provided a solution. He told Moses, "Make a snake image out of bronze and mount it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will recover." In John 3:14, Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up." What was Jesus talking about? Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." So Jesus invites us, "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth. For I am God, and there is no other" (Isa. 45:22).

As you lead your kids this week, help them understand the problem: we all have sinned and deserve death. Then lead them to rejoice because Jesus, the sinless Savior, became sin for us and was lifted up on the cross in our place. We must only look to and believe in Him to be saved.

## TEACHING FOCUS (Numbers 20-21)

The Israelites, who refused to enter the good land God promised, were blaming God and Moses for leading them aimlessly through the wilderness. The people had a chance to move out of the wilderness and into the land with good food to eat, but they were too afraid! Their wandering in the wilderness was their own fault—a direct result of their previous sin.

It was wrong for them to say and think the things they did. Accusing God of giving them bad food or of trying to get them killed in the wilderness is a form of blasphemy. Blasphemy is saying or believing untrue and dishonoring things about God. As you might have guessed, blasphemy is sin. What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God or His commands.

God disciplined His people for their sin by sending snakes into the camp to bite them. But God didn't just discipline them, He also provided a way for them to be saved. God told His people to look at the bronze snake to be healed. Even when giving them the hard consequences they deserved, God also showed them mercy by giving them a way to be healed. This story is a clear reminder of the way God showed us mercy through Jesus.

## TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- ***The Israelites faced a huge problem because of their sin.***
- ***God sent snakes to punish Israel, but anyone who was bitten could look at the bronze snake on the pole and live.***
- ***Because of our sin, we face a huge problem: we are separated from God. We deserve to die.***
- ***Just like God showed His mercy with the bronze snake, He shows us His mercy through His son Jesus Christ.***

**BL:** I can believe in Christ and be saved from my sin and have a relationship with God.

## 25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

### Discussion Questions:

1. What were the Israelites complaining about? (the food that God had provided them, Num. 21:5)
2. What did God do to punish His people for their sin? (sent snakes to bite them, Num. 21:6)
3. What did God tell Moses to do when the people repented of their sin? (Make a bronze snake and put it on a pole, Num. 21:8-9)
4. Why was it sin to complain against God? Guide the kids to discuss the fact that God had proven Himself faithful time and time again. God had promised good things to His people and met all their physical needs. Complaining against God was the same as accusing Him of being unfaithful or uncaring.
5. When do we grumble or complain against God? Guide kids to see that there are many ways we express ungratefulness toward God or distrust of God. Whenever we grumble or complain, it's like saying "God isn't doing the right things in my life" or "I know what is best for me better than God does."
6. How is the bronze snake a picture of God's mercy? Guide the kids to see that people bit by



the venomous snakes did not have to do anything to be saved; when they looked at the bronze snake, it showed they trusted God to save them. In a way that points us to Jesus, who was hung on a cross to take the punishment we deserved. When we trust in Him, God saves us.

**Activity: God's Eye Reminders**

**What You Need:** popsicle sticks (2 per kid), yarn (3 colors per group), scissors, tape, sharpie

**What You Do:**

- Give kids their popsicle sticks. They are going to make an "X" with them.
- They will take one color of yarn and tie it in the center.
- Do a few wraps around the sticks in one direction, and then rotate your sticks, and do a few wraps in the other direction to make the sticks stable.
- Wrap the yarn around one stick, close to the center of the eye, and take it over the next stick.
- Continue wrapping and winding in that fashion, rotating you God's Eye craft as you work. Remember to stay consistent in how you wrap around the sticks.

Watch this YouTube video for clear instructions.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoNWAhEcUuA>
- After making several layers of one color, you can switch colors.
- Most God's Eyes have 3 colors, but kids can do it the way they want to.
- Use the tape to tape the end of the last color yarn.
- Write the kid's name on the tape, so they can take it home.

**What You Say** These crafts are for you to take home and remember that God is with you. It is not God's real eye or even a very good representation of it, but like the snake, sometimes we need physical reminders that God is with us. In today's Bible story, God told His people to look at the bronze snake to be healed. The bronze snake on the pole is a picture of what happened later. Just like the Israelites looked at the snake on the pole to be healed, we look to Jesus on the cross for our salvation. In John 3, Jesus said that just like Moses lifted up the snake on the pole for the Israelites to be saved- Jesus would be lifted up-on the cross- for everyone who believes in Him to be saved and have eternal life.

**Activity: Memory Verse Activity**

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster, Memory Verse dominoes (print a word or 2 on a sticker to put on dominos- make 1 set per group)

**What You Do:**

- Get kids to find the words to the Memory Verse on dominoes.
- They will line the dominoes up in verse order as they say the words. (You can vary how you set it up each time with different patterns; straight line, swirl like a snake, make a river, circle, etc.)
- When everyone has said the verse you can knock the dominoes down.

**What You Say** " Our memory verse reminds us that we need to trust God. He knows better than we do about everything! This passage warns us against trusting our own understanding. God leads us to righteousness in Jesus. Trusting in ourselves for righteousness is sin. God provided a way out of that sin, it is through believing in His Son, Jesus.

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Say:**



## All Star Kids

May 5, 2019  
3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

“God, thank You for the Bible. In it, we see that we are sinners like the Israelites. We deserve to die for our sin, but we see that You love us and provided the way for us to be healed. You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be lifted up on a cross. We look to Him by faith for our healing and salvation. Thank You. Amen.

### **5 Minutes HOME:** PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Questions. What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands. **BL- I can believe in Christ and be saved from my sin and have a relationship with God.**