



For use in Small Groups and Personal Reflection

Question for Week following service March 10th 2024

LENT 4

Snake on a Pole

Numbers 21:4-9 & John 3:14-15

Preparation

1. Watch the sermon from your church YouTube channel
2. Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new
3. Read the passages below and reflect on the questions, if meeting with a group share your answers together.

Reading:

Numbers 21:4-9

The bronze snake

⁴ They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,⁵ to go round Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!'

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.' So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.' ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

John 3:14-15

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Questions for discussion

Reflect on the message of the sermon using the following questions. Take time at the end to ask what is God teaching you this week to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus?

1. **What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?**

2. **How do we feel when somebody moans to us? Or about us?**
 - a. Why is ingratitude so bad?

3. **What did the peoples grumbling show about their attitude to God and their rescue from Egypt?**
 - a. Can we identify with some of their frustrations?

4. **Do you feel that Gods response to send snakes was fair?**
 - a. Was He right to do this? / Why do you think He did it?
 - b. How do the people react to these poisonous snakes? / What do they acknowledge?

5. **How does God respond to their repentance?**
 - a. What might God be looking for from the bitten people?
 - b. How does the bronze serpent show God's mercy and grace to them?

6. **How does Jesus put Himself into our story from Numbers?**
 - a. What does it mean for Jesus to be 'lifted up'?

7. **Who are we in the Numbers story?**
 - a. What should our response be to Jesus?
 - b. What is the result of 'looking at' Jesus?

8. **How does the story of the bronze serpent cast a shadow or point towards the cross to help us understand more about what Jesus came to do?**

Prayer

Take some time to pray for the church, our local community and for you to know more of God in your daily walking with him.