

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Bronze Snake

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 1 WEEK 8

1

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper plate(s) (alternatively a piece of paper)
- Scissors & glue
- Kokies/Crayons/Etc.
- Googley eyes, red pipe cleaner, string/gut (optional)

LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

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

2

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Every day the Israelites were getting closer and closer to the time when they could enter the land that God had promised to them. The Lord always took care of them and gave them delicious manna and quail to eat. Some of the people became very impatient. They started complaining to Moses. They didn't like the food. They wanted more water. Then they started complaining about God. They even said that they wished that they were back in Egypt!

The Lord was upset with His people. He always took care and provided for them. But the Israelites kept moaning and groaning. The people did not thank God for what He did. They always thought they should have more!

The Lord decided to teach the Israelites that He was the only one that could save them. He sent venomous snakes into the camp. The snakes bit the people and many of them got sick and died. Now the people knew that they needed the Lord to protect them. They knew that they had been wrong to complain about the way the Lord took care of them. They told Moses that they were very sorry for all the complaining.

Moses prayed to God and told Him how sorry the people were. The Lord answered Moses' prayer. The Lord didn't take the venomous snakes away from the camp, but He did something that would help the Israelites remember that they should always look to Him for help. God told Moses to make a snake out of a shiny metal called "bronze" and to put this snake on a pole so all the people could see it. If anyone was bitten by a venomous snake, they could look at the bronze snake and be made well. This would help them remember that God would take care of them.

Today, we can also know and trust that God will take care of us, His children. And God DID take care of us in the best way possible. The second passage we read today is about Jesus. If we look to Jesus, like the Israelites looked at the bronze snake in the desert, we will also be saved. We need to be saved from the danger of sin to every part of our lives. Just like the Israelites, we need rescuing and just like the Israelites we cannot rescue ourselves. By believing in Jesus and what He did for us by dying on the cross, we are saved from the destruction of sin in our lives.

3

4

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- What did the Israelites complain about?
- What did God send into the camp?
- Do you think this was fair?
- How were the people healed from the snake bites?
- Who was the only one who could make the people well?

5

LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER

Read John 3:14-15 again

- Who saves us?
- How are we saved?
- What do we need saving from?
- Do we deserve punishment like the Israelites did?
- Have you made a decision to put your faith in Jesus so you can be saved?

Parents, have a conversation with your child(ren) about salvation and take the opportunity to pray a simple salvation prayer with them if they would like you to.

6

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Pray together:

- Thank God for His love
- Thank God for His gift of salvation
- Pray that God would help us to stop grumbling and to trust Him more

7

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

Decide if each family member would like to make a snake craft or if you will be making only one snake craft as a family (*one paper plate per snake*). Draw a spiral snake shape onto the paper plate (*see picture*) (*if you don't have a paper plate, use any kind of paper to draw a spiral snake shape onto.*). Write John 3:14 onto the snake's body, then colour and decorate the snake. Add googly eyes and use the red pipe cleaner to make the snake's tongue (*alternatively, draw the eyes and use a piece of paper to make a tongue*). Cut out the snake along the spiral. If you would like to hang your snake up, attach a piece of string/gut to the head to hang it with.

