

# GOD HEALED ISRAEL WITH A BRONZE SNAKE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: NUMBERS 21



## The STORY

Read "The Bronze Snake" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (page 88).

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- How did the Israelites disobey God in this story? (They complained against God and against God's chosen leader, Moses.)
- What was the consequence of their actions? (God disciplined them for their words and heart attitudes by sending poisonous snakes to bite them causing many to die.)
- How did God show His mercy on the Israelites? (God delivers Israel from poisonous snakes by providing healing through a bronze snake statue.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Moses standing by a pole with a bronze snake hanging on it. Engage the children by asking:**

- Why did Moses create a statue of a snake on a pole? (Moses obeyed God's instructions to make a bronze snake on a pole.)
- Why are these people coming near to look at this snake? (They are obeying God's directions to look at the snake and be healed from their snakebites.)
- Did the statue heal them? (No, faith and obedience towards God made them well.)
- Have your parents ever asked you to do something that at first you thought was scary? How did God help you to obey?

Allow one or two children to explain what happened.

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Why do you think God used snakes? (Many people are afraid of snakes. God wanted to teach Israel to trust in the Lord.)
- How many of you are afraid of snakes?  
Have children give a show of hands.
- Has anyone ever been bitten by a snake?  
If yes, allow children to tell what happened.

### Where Is Jesus?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

The Old Testament is filled with stories that point to Jesus. Here we see sinners healed of the snakebites sent to them as judgment when they look to the upraised snake. It was God who told Moses to put the bronze snake up on a pole.

This reminded God the Father of Jesus, who would one day, be lifted up. Because of this, God healed the people and did not count their sins against them. Isn't it interesting that this Old Testament story precedes the most quoted verse of the entire New Testament? When we read of the bronze snake being lifted up we should think of Christ, who is the ultimate healer.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

