

THE BRASS SERPENT

Numbers 21:4-9

Numbers 21

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

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The 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.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”

⁹So 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, he lived.

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What did the Israelites complain about?
5		2.) What did God do because the Israelites complained?
5		3.) What did the Israelites ask Moses to do?
5		4.) Why do you think God wanted the Israelites to look up to the snake on a pole?

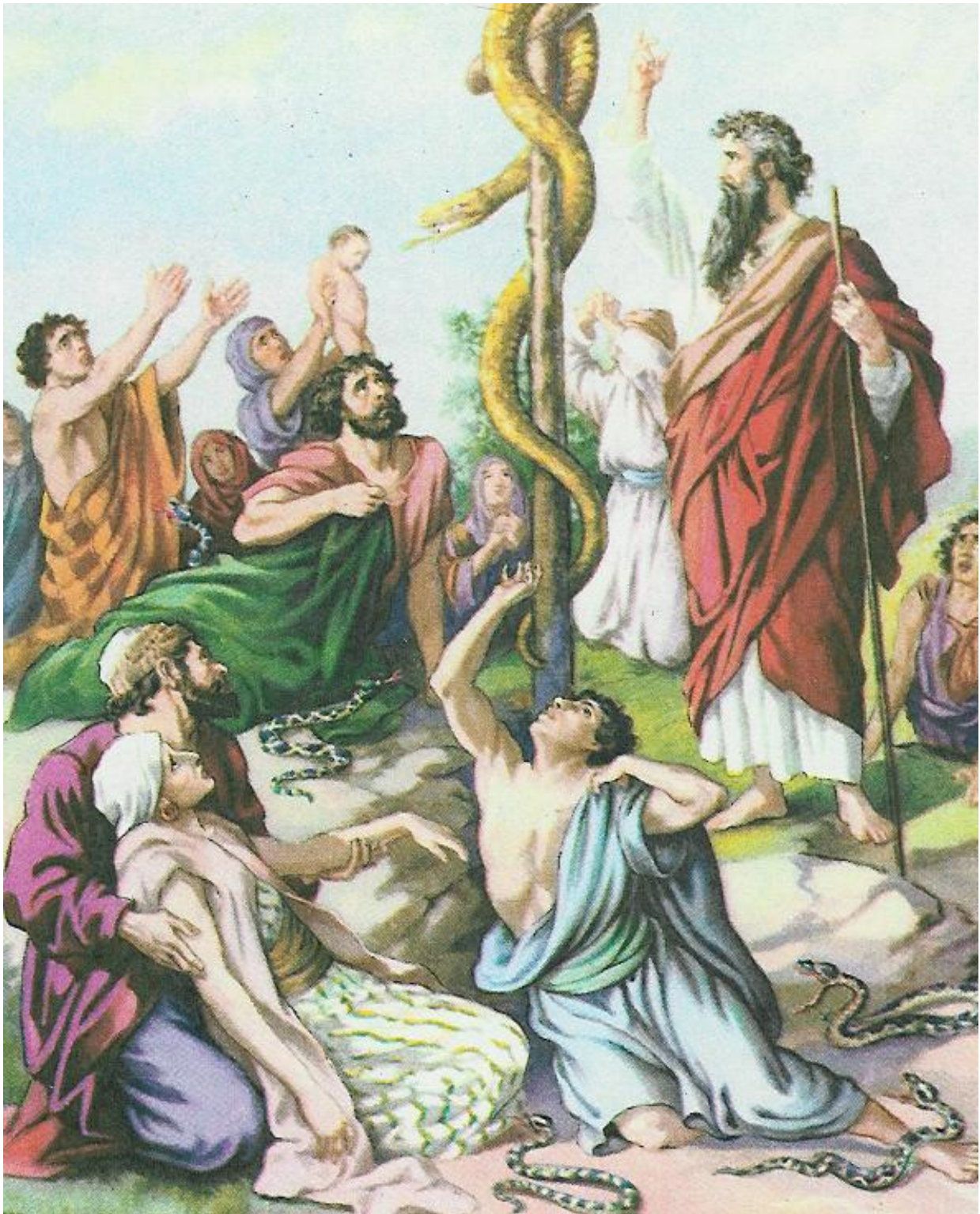
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 105:4</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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Picture from *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Moody Press: Copyright © 1956.

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The Israelites that looked up at the bronze serpent lived

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CRAFT/ACTIVITY: CLAY SERPENTS

Students will make clay serpents on a pole (drinking straw) to remind them that the Israelites had to look up to the brass serpent to live if they had been bitten by a venomous snake.

MATERIALS

1. 2 cups flour
2. 1 cup salt
3. 2/3 cup water
4. Bowl for mixing
5. Measuring cup
6. Wax Paper for each student
7. Drinking straws



DIRECTIONS

1. Mix the flour and salt together in a bowl first. Then add in water slowly. Squeeze the dough with your hands until it is smooth. If the play dough is crumbly, add more water. If the play dough is too wet, sprinkle it with flour.
2. Pass out a small piece of wax paper and a small lump of play dough to each student.
3. Instruct them to roll it out into a snake.
4. Have students coil the “snake” around a plastic drinking straw.
5. Play dough will air dry over time (up to a week).

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are rolling out their snakes, remind them that God sent the venomous snakes to bite the Israelites as a result of their complaining. When the Israelites realized that they had sinned, they begged Moses to pray to the Lord to take away the snakes. Though God did not take the snakes away, he did have Moses make a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Anyone that was bitten could look up to the snake and live. Help students realize that today, when we are bitten by sin, we too, can look up; not to a snake, but to Jesus for forgiveness.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 15 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.” Psalm 105:4

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FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. The children of Israel "journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very _____ on the way." **NUMBERS 21:4**
2. "And the people spoke against _____ and against _____: 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no _____ and no _____, and our soul loathes this worthless _____.'" **NUMBERS 21:5**
3. "So the LORD sent fiery _____ among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died." **NUMBERS 21:6**

UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER:

4. "Therefore the people came to Moses, and said,..." **NUMBERS 21:7**
 - a. we have sinned
 - b. we have spoken against the LORD and against you
 - c. pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us
 - d. all of the above

TRUE OR FALSE:

5. But Moses would not pray to the LORD for the people. **NUMBERS 21:7**
TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

6. "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he (**LOOKS, WORKS**) at it, shall live.'" **NUMBERS 21:8**

FILL IN THE BLANK:

7. "So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he _____." **NUMBERS 21:9**

THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON NUMBERS 21:4-9

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The Israelites continued to travel through the desert from Mount Hor to the Red Sea. They traveled that route because the king of Edom would not let them pass through

his land.

The Israelites grew impatient and started to complain once again. They spoke against God and Moses saying, “Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is nothing good to eat and no water out here!”

Then the Lord sent poisonous snakes to bite the people. Many of the Israelites died.

Some of the people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.”

Then the Lord told Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Anyone who got bit by a snake could look up at the snake and live.

This is a good lesson for us today. Anytime we have trouble, we can look up too. Today, we don’t look up at a bronze snake. We look to God!

To find out more details about this story, read Numbers 21:4-9 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the Israelites complain about?
2. What did God do because the Israelites complained?
3. What did the Israelites ask Moses to do?
4. Why do you think the Lord wanted the Israelites to look up to the snake on a pole?

MEMORY VERSE

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.” Psalm 105:4

WORD SCRAMBLE

SNAKE	ISRAELITES	MOSES
BRONZE	COMPLAIN	PRAY

SESOM _____

YPRA _____

SETILEARSI _____

ESANK _____

OMNIACPL _____

BERNOZ _____