



The Bronze Serpent!

God heals us when we look to Him!

Story #21 | Ages 4–10 | Numbers 21; John 3

1 The Complaining Road!

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-6 | Theme: Sin has consequences

🧐 The Long Way Around



God had LED His people through the wilderness for MANY years.

But they were **IMPATIENT**.

They had to go **AROUND** the land of Edom.

The road was **LONG**. Hot. Dusty.

And they started to **COMPLAIN**.

🗣️ THE PEOPLE SAY:

"Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food!"

They spoke against **GOD** and against **MOSES**.

They forgot the **RED SEA**.

They forgot the **MANNA**.

They only saw what they **DIDN'T** have.

And then... God sent **SNAKES!**

"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food." — Numbers 21:5

🥔 Hot Potato Snake!

Pass a stuffed sock "snake" around the circle. When the music stops, the person holding it sits down. Talk about how sin and complaining spread quickly!

🔥 Fire Snakes!



Imagine a snake whose bite feels like **FIRE!**

Red, orange, slithering through the camp.

People **SCREAMING!** Running!

The poison felt like **FIRE** in their veins!

It wasn't just a tummy ache. It was **DEADLY**.

Many people **DIED**.

Why did this happen?

Because the people **STOPPED** trusting God.

They forgot His miracles. They forgot His love.

Sin ALWAYS brings painful consequences.

💡 Tiny Truth

Complaining and unbelief hurt US more than they hurt God. Sin is like a snake bite — it poisons our hearts!

❤️ God Still Loves Us

Even when the Israelites complained, God didn't give up on them. He **NEVER** gives up on YOU!

2 We Have Sinned!

Scripture: Numbers 21:7 | Theme: Repentance

😞 We're Sorry!



The people came **RUNNING** to Moses.
They weren't arguing anymore.
They weren't complaining anymore.
They were **SCARED** and **SORRY**.

👥 THE PEOPLE SAY:

"We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that He take away the serpents from us!"

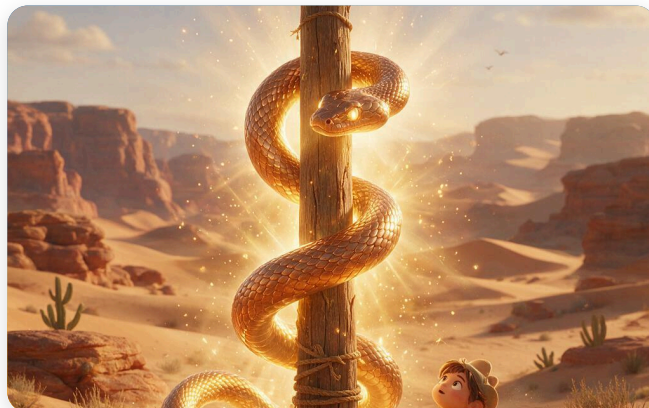
Moses didn't say "I told you so!"
He didn't shake his finger.
He went straight to **GOD** on their behalf.
God **HEARD** their prayer.
He saw their **REPENTANCE**.
When we say "sorry" and mean it, God **LISTENS**!

"We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that He take away the serpents from us." — Numbers 21:7

❤️ Sorry Sign!

Make a heart shape with your hands. That's repentance — turning your heart back to God! Say "I'm sorry" to someone you complained about today.

🙏 Moses Prays



Moses stood before God with his hands **RAISED**.
He asked God to have **MERCY**.
And God **DID** have mercy.
But He didn't just take the snakes away.
He gave them something **STRANGE**.
Something they had to **LOOK** at.
Sometimes God doesn't remove our problems instantly.
But He **ALWAYS** provides a WAY THROUGH!

💡 Tiny Truth

God is **SLOW TO ANGER** and **ABOUNDING IN LOVE**.
He always hears a truly sorry heart!

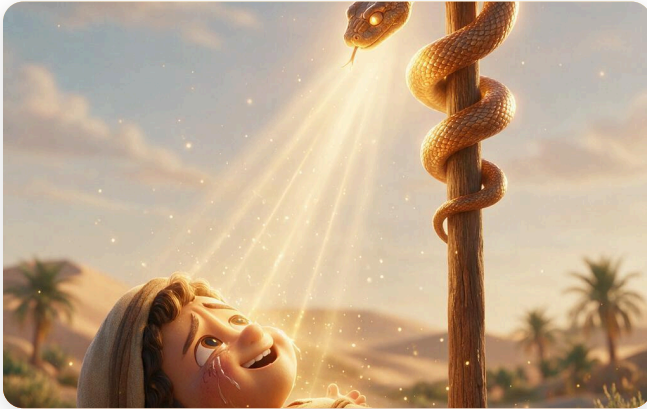
🙏 God Hears Our Sorry!

Trace your hands on paper. Cut them out. Write 5 people you can pray for. Moses prayed for people who were mean to him!

3 Look and Live!

Scripture: Numbers 21:8-9 | Theme: Faith looks up

The Bronze Snake



God told Moses:

GOD SAYS:

"Make a fiery serpent and set it on a standard. And everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live!"

Moses took **BRONZE**.

He shaped it like a serpent.

He put it up **HIGH** on a tall wooden pole.

Everyone could see it!

When someone was bitten, they would **LOOK UP**...

And they would be **HEALED**!

It was **FAITH** in action!

"And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard. And it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived." — Numbers 21:9

Look Up!

Lie on your back. Have a parent hold a paper snake on a stick above you. Look up! The Israelites had to look up at the pole to be healed. We look up to Jesus!

Look and Live!



Imagine feeling the fire poison in your leg.

You look up at the bronze snake on the pole.

And **INSTANTLY** — the burning stops!

The swelling goes down!

You are **HEALED**!

All because you **LOOKED**.

You didn't need medicine.

You didn't need money.

You just needed to **LOOK** and **BELIEVE**!

God made the cure **SIMPLE** so EVERYONE could be saved!

Tiny Truth

Faith doesn't need to understand HOW — it just needs to look up and **TRUST**! God's ways are simple but powerful!

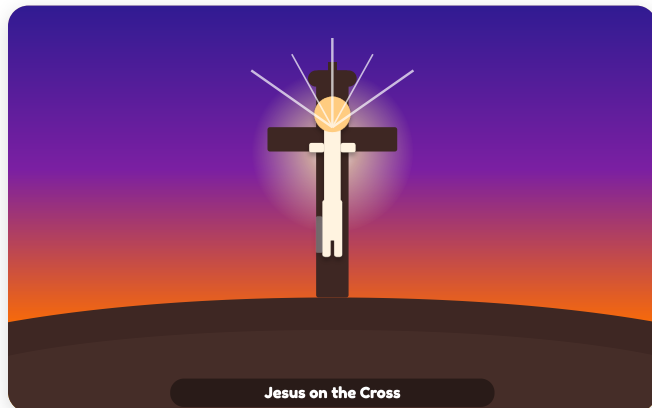
God's Cure is Simple!

Draw a big eye looking up at a cross. Write "Look to Jesus!" Sometimes the hardest thing is simply to **LOOK** away from our problem and look to God.

4 Jesus on the Cross!

Scripture: John 3:14-15 | Theme: Jesus heals us

✚ The Son of Man Lifted Up



Hundreds of years later...

Jesus was talking to a man named **Nicodemus**.

He said something **SHOCKING**:

☀ GOD SAYS:

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life."

The bronze serpent was a **PICTURE** of JESUS!

Jesus would be lifted up on a **CROSS**.

Not because **HE** sinned — He never sinned!

But because **WE** sinned.

He took **OUR** punishment!

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life." — John 3:14-15

✚ Cross Eyes!

Make a cross with your two index fingers. Look through it at a light. Jesus is the Light we look to for healing from sin!

✨ Look to Jesus!



Just like the Israelites looked at the bronze snake...

We look to **JESUS** on the cross!

When we look to Him, we are healed from **SIN**.

We get **ETERNAL LIFE**!

John 3:16 says God **SO LOVED** the world!

The snake on the pole was **BRONZE** — the color of **JUDGMENT**.

Jesus took God's judgment **FOR US**!

When we feel the "bite" of sin...

We don't need to hide. We don't need to run.

We **LOOK** to Jesus and **LIVE**!

💡 Tiny Truth

Jesus is the **ULTIMATE CURE** for our sin! Just **LOOK** to Him and you are forgiven, healed, and saved forever!

📖 Look Every Day!

Put a cross where you can see it when you wake up. Every morning, say: "Jesus, I look to YOU today!" That's how we live healed!

5 Create, Play & Talk Together!

Numbers 21; John 3 | God heals us when we look to Him!

Bronze Serpent on a Pole

1. Use clay or playdough to shape a snake.
2. Wrap it around a stick, pencil, or dowel rod.
3. Spray paint it bronze/gold, or wrap it in aluminum foil!
4. Stand it up tall! Remember — everyone who LOOKED lived!
5. Write **Numbers 21:9** on the stick.
6. When you see it, say: "I look to Jesus and LIVE!"

Cross Connection Card

1. Make a cross from popsicle sticks or cardboard.
2. Paint it with bronze and gold colors.
3. Write **John 3:14-15** across it.
4. Decorate with stickers, glitter, or jewels.
5. Punch a hole and hang it above your bed.
6. Every night, look at it and say: "Thank You Jesus for healing me!"

Sing to the Tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star":

*"Snake bite burning, oh so sore,
Look up high and live once more!
Bronze snake shining on the pole,
Jesus saves my hurting soul!
Look to Jesus on the cross,
Healing us from pain and loss!"*

Family Discussion Time

1. Why did God send the fiery serpents? What had the people done?
2. What did the people do when they realized they had sinned?
3. Why did God tell them to LOOK at the bronze serpent instead of just taking the snakes away?
4. How is the bronze serpent on the pole like Jesus on the cross?
5. What "bites" us today — fear, anger, lies — that Jesus can heal?
6. How can our family "look to Jesus" every day this week?

Story #21 of the Biblical Adventure Series. Faith-building visual storytelling for family discipleship.

Next Story Preview: Balaam's Donkey — God can speak through anyone! (Numbers 22-24)

God Heals Us

When We Look to Him!

The snakes were fierce, the poison burned,
The people cried, their lesson learned.
But God in mercy made a way,
A bronze snake lifted up that day.
And now we look to Jesus' cross,
Where pain and sin are counted loss.
So when you're bitten, bruised, or blue,
Look up! God's healing waits for YOU! 🔄✚️✨

📖 Next in this Series:

Balaam's Donkey!

God can speak through anyone — or anything!

Story #22 Coming Soon

Scripture quotations from the ESV® Bible.
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