



## A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of March 25, 2018

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

### Numbers 21:1-9 "Look & Live"

- **How do you need grace today to see Jesus?**

When the Canaanite, the king of Arad, who lived in the Negeb, heard that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim, he fought against Israel, and took some of them captive. <sup>2</sup>And Israel vowed a vow to the LORD and said, "If you will indeed give this people into my hand, then I will devote their cities to destruction." <sup>3</sup>And the LORD heeded the voice of Israel and gave over the Canaanites, and they devoted them and their cities to destruction. So the name of the place was called Hormah.

- **The king of Arad fights against the children of Israel and takes some of them prisoners. What is their response to this attack (1-2)?**
- **What does the Lord do in response to Israel's vow (3)?**

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "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 worthless food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, "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." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."<sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

- **Israel was denied passage through Edom and turned to journey from Kadesh to Mount Hor ([Numbers 20:21-22](#)). What is happening to the people on this journey (4)?**

- **The people complain again. What is the subject of their complaint (5)?**
- **How does the Lord respond to Israel's complaining (6)? ([I Corinthians 10:9](#), [Deuteronomy 8:15](#))**
- **The people come to Moses, admitting that their complaints against the Lord and him were sin. They ask Moses to pray for the Lord to take away the serpents from them. How does the Lord respond (7-8)?**
- **The Lord instructs Moses to make a fiery serpent and put it on a pole, thus giving the children of Israel a way to live, despite the deadly bites of the fiery serpents. What do the children of Israel who were bitten have to do in order to live (9)?**
- **What becomes of the bronze serpent on a pole? ([II Kings 18:4](#))**
- **Jesus uses the bronze serpent as an illustration of Himself when talking to Nicodemus. ([John 3:14-15](#)) Why does the bronze serpent on the pole point us to Jesus Christ?**
- **The ministry of Jesus is better than the ministry of Moses. God delivered those who looked to Him from a particular trouble in the wilderness, but Jesus delivers us from sin and death. Even more, our Risen Lord will make all things new ([Revelation 21:5](#)). How does the promise that Jesus is making all things new encourage you today?**
- **Pray together as a group. Look to Jesus, and live. Ask Him for faith to believe that He delivers His people and is making all things new.**

## Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 21:1-9](#).

- On the heels of a military victory, the people of God complain.
- It is because of impatience. It is also because of a lack of trust that God will take care of them.
- So why snakes?
  - Symbols of the power of Egypt
  - Symbols of bondage
  - Our ultimate enemy
- [Genesis 3:13-15](#) tells us these things...“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ The Lord God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring[*e*] and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
- “We have all been bitten by this snake. Moses intercedes and God gives a means of healing. Moses makes a bronze snake, puts it on a pole and tells the people to look at the snake. (note; not to look to the snake) This is not magic. The bronze snake is not unlike the sacraments. Look in faith to the one who forgives, heals and restores. This should give us hope this morning. We read in the gospel accounts of the women, early on the first day of the week, going to visit a dead Jesus. They had heard him say on Good Friday, ‘It is finished’. And they believed him. ‘It is finished,’ Jesus said, and they believed Him. But they were wrong. Jesus finished those very things that trouble you. He bore your griefs, and they are finished. He carried your sorrows, and they are finished. He was wounded for your transgressions, and they are finished. He was crushed for your iniquities, and they are finished. So tell your accusers that Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ What are you, death? You are finished. What are you, grave? You are finished. What are you, sins? You threaten me with my past, but Jesus buried you. You are finished!” (*Christopher Esget*)
- Jesus said “It is finished” ([John 19:30](#)). But He is not finished.
- “Behold, He says, I am making all things new!” ([Revelation 21:5](#))

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, [kevin@wepc.org](mailto:kevin@wepc.org)  
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