



# Sermon Study Guide for March 10, 2024

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** The people of Israel grew impatient with God, and spoke against them. An affliction came, and they were healed by the bronze snake that was put on a pole, and lifted high. We too look up, not to a bronze snake, but to Jesus, for our salvation.

**Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. Do you like snakes? Do you mind snakes? What are your true feelings on snakes?
2. Have you ever commiserated and felt empathy for the Israelites?

**In the Word: Numbers 21:4-9**

3. Why are the Israelites grumbling this time? They seem to always have something to grumble about (and we often do too...), but what is the issue this time?
4. This is not a story that we hear often, this isn't exactly a Sunday School story. Yet, Moses shows compassion and prays. Why does he do that?
5. Usually when the Israelites have something bronze, or gold, it isn't a great situation. Think of the Golden Calf and other idols. But God has Moses put a bronze snake up on a pole. God still saves and cares for His people. Why?

### **In the Word: John 3:14-21**

6. John 3:16! Always a great verse to work through. How can we use this verse every day?
7. We see the correlation to the Numbers passage in John 3. We see and can understand that just as the bronze serpent was lifted up, so too must Jesus be lifted up. How is the healing and salvation that Jesus brings similar to the Israelites?
8. Jesus is teaching Nicodemus, a Pharisee. Jesus is speaking plainly about himself. And we hear great words of comfort in verses 16-17. How do those words comfort you?

### **Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)**

9. You've seen it at baseball games. You know the verse. John 3:16. This verse has often been called the Gospel in a nutshell. How does this verse show the heart of Jesus and the love and care that God has for us?
10. We've not been bitten by snakes. But we've been plagued by a serpent from the beginning. The Israelites are healed by looking up to the snake on the cross. We are healed and saved by looking up to the cross and seeing our Lord and Savior defeat the serpent, defeat the devil. How can we share that victory with all that we meet and know and love?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the healing and salvation that He has granted you through Jesus. Thank God that we have the victory, that YOU have the victory won by Christ on the cross. Ask God that He would keep His victory at the forefront of your mind. Ask God that He would help you to share the victory of Christ, the Great News with all!

**Next Week:** Many have the desire to lead and do great things. James and John's request is an example of this. Yet, Christ's call to leadership asks much of those who follow: "For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."