LESSON 20

THE SNAKE IN THE DESERT



Aim: **To teach the children that disobedience to God must be punished by death, but that God has provided us with a way of salvation.**

Scripture Reading: **Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-16**

Memory Verse: **Romans 6:23**
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Make up a story about a boy who climbed up a mango tree to pick some of the fruit. This tree did not belong to his family, but the mangoes were ripe so he decided to steal them. Then suddenly, the owner appeared. When the boy saw the owner he had a fright and fell from the tree. He hurt himself.

When we disobey God we sin. It's like falling down instead of continuing forwards. When we fall we are hurt.

MAIN POINTS OF TODAY'S TEACHING

1. God took care of the people of Israel on their journey to the Promised Land.
   Show pictures 18 and 29. Briefly review how God cared for them by asking questions, referring to the pictures.
2. God provided food and water for them and he gave them rules for living together in peace, but still they grumbled. They were ungrateful and they kept on doubting that God would take care of them (Num 21:5).
3. As punishment, God sent snakes among them (v 6).
4. The people of Israel understood that they had sinned and they repented (v 7).
5. On God's instruction Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole (v 8). Show picture 20.
6. When a person who had been bitten by a snake looked at the bronze snake, he or she was healed (v 9). God had provided a way to save their lives.

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Our Response to the Story

Jesus said that because of our disobedience he would be lifted up like this snake was lifted up in the desert (Jn 3:14-15). He was indeed put up on a cross and he died for the sins of the world. Just as every sick Israelite needed to look up at the bronze snake in order to be healed, we need to look up at the cross and accept Jesus as the only One who can save us from sin and death.

Instil the Memory Verse



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