

God Heals His People

Key Verse: "See now that I myself am He! There is no god beside me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal and no one can deliver out of my hand." Deuteronomy 32:39

Bible Story: The Bronze Snake: Numbers 21: 4-9

Tell the kids that when most people think of God healing people, they think of Jesus healing people in the New Testament, but that you want to tell them a story from the Old Testament that should help to explain that **God heals His people**.

Read through the passage for the day (**Numbers 21:4-9**) and talk through it as you go. Some of the points you'll want to hit are:

1. God was leading His people through the desert.
2. Because of sin and rebellion, God had them wander in the desert for 40 years so that a new generation would enter the Promised Land.
3. The people when through phases of trusting God and then complaining and then trusting again.
4. As they were traveling, once again the people began to complain and question why God had brought them out of Egypt to die in the desert. They complained about the food (manna) that God was giving them and got angry at God.
5. So, God sent poisonous snakes into the camp and they bit many Israelites and many people died.
6. Then the people came to Moses and admitted that they had sinned when they complained against God and asked Moses to pray for them and ask God to take away the snakes.
7. Moses prayed. God answered Moses prayer, but He didn't take away the snakes. Instead, God told Moses to make a snake out of bronze and put it up on a pole so that the people could see it. God told Moses that when someone was bitten by a snake that if they looked at the bronze snake they would be healed.
8. Moses did what God said and whenever someone was bitten, if they looked at the bronze snake they were healed.
9. In this way, God reminded His people not only that He can heal, but that they needed to trust Him completely.

DEFINE AND REMEMBER:

HEALS = TO MAKE HEALTHY AND WHOLE AND FREE FROM AILMENTS

EXPLAIN: Talk about how we saw God healing His people in today's story. Talk about how God could have made all the snakes simply go away. Or He could have just healed all the people

who were bitten, but instead He wanted the people to learn to trust Him and rely on Him for all things. He wanted the people to remember that He is the great healer and that they need to look to Him for salvation.

MEMORY VERSE:

SAY: “This week our memory verse is **Deuteronomy 32:39** which reminds us that God alone is sovereign (or in control) over life and death. God can **heal** and God can destroy. Life is in God’s hands.

Read the memory verse together from the Bible. Then, ask the kids to share stories from the Bible that they know where God heals someone.

CROSS CONNECTION:

In our story this morning we saw God’s people call out to Him for **healing**. The truth that we see in the Bible is that we all need to call out to God for healing as well. We don’t need to be rescued from a snake bite, but we all need to be rescued from something even worse; sin and punishment and death. In **John 3**, when Jesus is talking to Nicodemus, He compares Himself to the bronze snake. He said, (**John 3:14-15**), “*Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.*” Just like the people in the desert couldn’t heal themselves from their snake bites, we can’t heal ourselves from sin and death and without healing we will die. **Romans 6:23** tells us that the punishment for sin is death. But, if we look to Jesus and believe that He was lifted up (died on the cross) in our place for our sin we will be saved; we will be healed from the sting of sin and death.

REVIEW:

Give each child a blank piece of paper provide markers or colored pencils. Encourage them to write the word *heal* somewhere on the paper and then write or draw something to help them remember this attribute of God. They could write the definition for *good* or the memory verse or they could illustrate any of the passages you read about God being *good*, or they could draw something comparing their sinfulness to God’s holiness. After a few minutes, bring the group back together and give kids time to share what they have drawn or written.

PRAYER:

Pray that the kids in the group would come to know God more and more each week through this study and that God will heal those people in our lives and in our church who need it.