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God's Plan – Moses & The Bronze Serpent

“Keep Your Eyes on God”

OPENING:

This week we will continue to follow the story of the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

Our lesson will focus again on the Israelites continuing to complain, God's promises and the consequences of their unbelief.

We will focus on:

- **TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROMISES**
- **THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT TRUSTING GOD**
- **GOD'S GRACE & MERCY**

Remember:

- God had called Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egyptian slavery.
- Although they had gotten out of Egypt, they were not able to enter the Promised Land right away, and had to wander in the wilderness.
- God provided manna to sustain them, but it wasn't good enough. The people got tired of the wilderness and tired of the food, and they complained to both God and Moses.
- They were impatient and upset, and whined that they had been delivered only to die.

Read: Numbers 21:4-9

The Bronze Snake

⁴ The Israelites left Mount Hor and went on the road toward the Gulf of Aqaba. They did this to go around the country of Edom. But the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ They grumbled at God and Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? We will die in this desert! There is no bread! There is no water! And we hate this terrible food!"

⁶ So the Lord sent them poisonous snakes. They bit the people, and many of the Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we grumbled at you and the Lord. Pray that the Lord will take away these snakes." So, Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The Lord said to Moses, "Make a bronze snake. And put it on a pole. If anyone is bitten, he should look at it. Then he will live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake. And he put it on a pole. Then when a snake bit anyone, he looked at the bronze snake and lived.

Now let's read and find out what happens next to the Israelites:

Read: "Two Strikes, You're Out!", "The Bronze Snake" and "The Wonderful Win Against Og" out of the **ACTION BIBLE**.

Discussion: Numbers 21:4-5 –

⁴ The Israelites left Mount Hor and went on the road toward the Gulf of Aqaba. They did this to go around the country of Edom. But the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ They grumbled at God and Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? We will die in this desert! There is no bread! There is no water! And we hate this terrible food!"

Ask: What are things you've complained about? Why do you think it's not a good idea to complain?

Numbers: 21:6-7 –

⁶So the Lord sent them poisonous snakes. They bit the people, and many of the Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we grumbled at you and the Lord. Pray that the Lord will take away these snakes." So, Moses prayed for the people.

It's hard to process God sending such a harsh punishment, but discipline is often a consequence of sin.

The snakes did kill people, but also effectively communicated that they were doing wrong.

The Israelites who had complained recognized that the serpents were there because of what they had said and done.

They begged Moses to go to God on their behalf and explain their remorse, hoping that God would be merciful. Fortunately, Moses did, and of course God was merciful.

Ask –

- How do you feel about punishment or discipline when you do something wrong?
- What do you do when you make a mistake and need to ask for forgiveness?

Read: Numbers 21:8-9

⁸The Lord said to Moses, "Make a bronze snake. And put it on a pole. If anyone is bitten, he should look at it. Then he will live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake. And he put it on a pole. Then when a snake bit anyone, he looked at the bronze snake and lived.

God had a plan to save the people. He instructed Moses to create a snake and wrap it on a pole. The snake on a stick was the antidote.*(the cure) . People who had been bitten could look on it and live. They had the cure! Death couldn't frighten them anymore knowing that they could look at the bronze snake and be saved.

But God had an even greater plan of salvation. He already knew that He would send someone to save not just a group of people, but the whole world...

Ask: How are we saved from destruction and sin?

Read: John 3:14-17

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. -John 3:14-17

Explain: Here - Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, who wanted to know more about salvation. Jesus was explaining to him who He was and what He came to do. He referenced the serpent in the wilderness to remind Nicodemus that **the snake was ultimately pointing to Him. Jesus was sent in order to be lifted up, like the snake, and to give eternal life to all people. His death allows us all to live and be forgiven. Jesus explained the simple choice we have when it comes to life with Him.**

Read: John 3:18-21

"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." -John 3:18-21

We all have a choice:

We can reject Christ and what He has to offer, if we want to. We can refuse the light and embrace darkness, but that would be rather foolish when we have the opportunity to have life and freedom. **Jesus has come so that we could have life in and through Him. HE is the ultimate cure, not for a snake bite, but for sin and death.** Jesus is the way to life now and for eternity!

Snake bites sound strange, but there is important foreshadowing in this story. In part, it shows us how much grace and mercy God has, that He made a way of escape for the grumbling Israelites. Ultimately, though, the passage points to Christ and the way He makes for all of us. God has mercy and grace on us by giving His son, through whom we can all have hope and salvation. We don't fear death when we have Him. Thanks be to God!

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You for saving us through Your son Jesus and help us to remember to trust in Him. In Jesus' Name – AMEN.

Memory Verse:

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:17

Watch Video Stories:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRQkbADC8hI&list=TLGG_1_i_rWrKZQ4yOTA5MjAyNA&t=218s

The Bronze Serpent Story by Kids on the Move

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/407181862717/veggietales-moe-and-the-big-exit>

– Moe & The Big Exit

Crafts: Serpent on Staff

Needed Items:

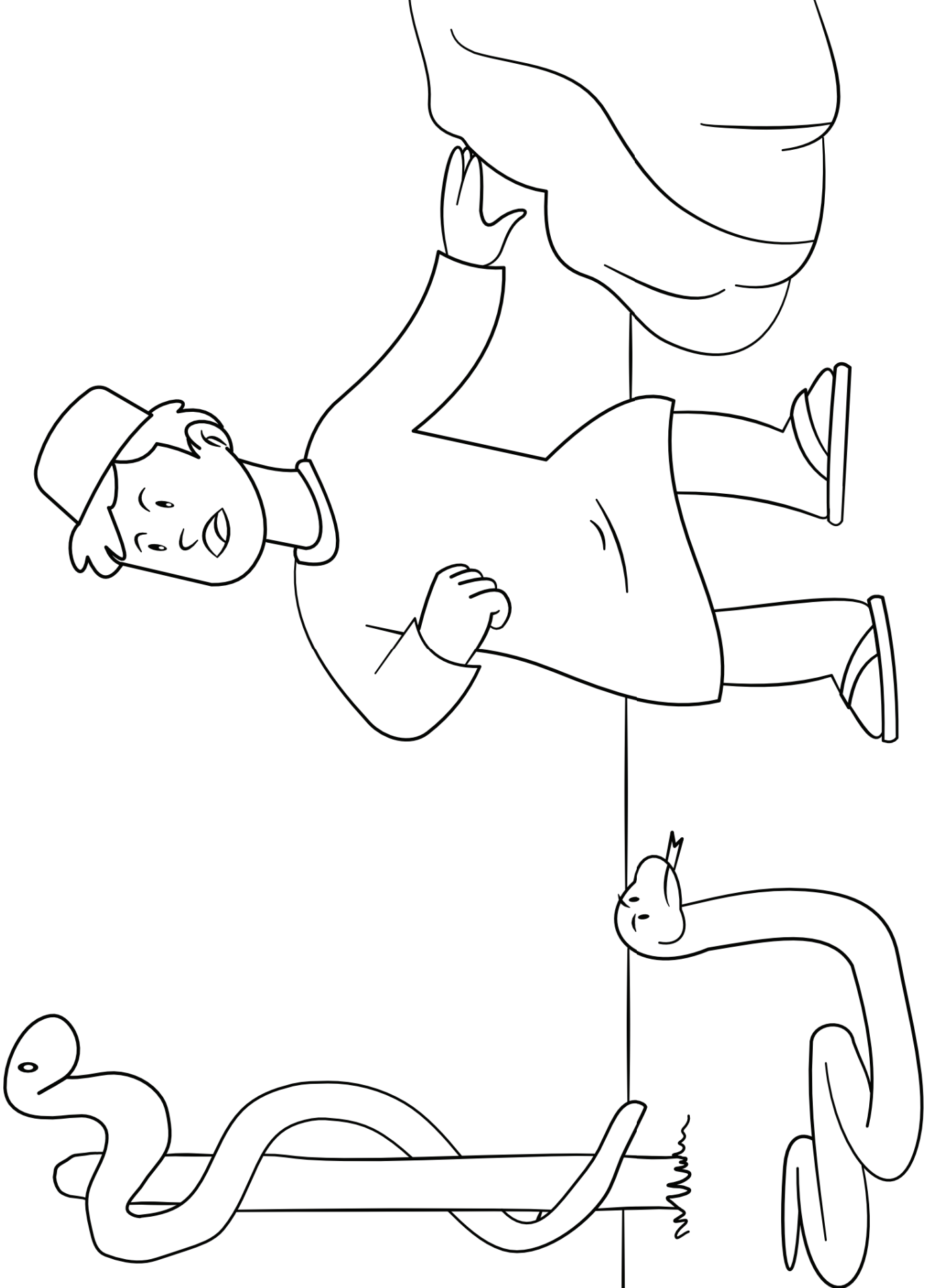
Pipe Cleaners, beads, glue, googly eyes, Popsicle sticks, twine, colored markers.



Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://ministry-to-children.com> for their lessons and <https://artsycraftsymom.com/> for crafts ideas. Also, www.truewaykids.com for their coloring pages and wordsearch.



WORD SEARCH

D	W	D	E	S	I	M	O	R	P	X	Q
M	X	I	B	K	Y	B	B	T	R	T	X
Z	I	G	L	Q	K	F	O	R	T	Y	J
X	M	S	L	D	L	C	L	W	Y	G	O
L	E	B	R	V	E	V	O	L	R	D	U
T	Z	M	K	A	R	R	I	R	D	R	R
E	N	C	B	C	E	A	N	C	Q	T	N
K	O	X	K	M	D	L	P	E	S	N	E
A	R	W	A	T	E	R	I	U	S	P	Y
N	B	N	B	L	T	G	R	T	L	S	N
S	N	P	T	Y	H	T	L	C	E	K	F
A	R	K	B	Z	G	L	N	L	H	S	N

BRONZE
DAILY
FORTY
ISRAELITES
JOURNEY
MANNA
PROMISED
ROCK
SNAKE
TRUST
WATER
WILDERNESS

