



# Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent: March 14, 2021 The Peculiar Antidote: Look and Live

*Numbers 21:4-9*

**4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” 6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8 The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.**

1. Share your travel story with the most mishaps, roadblocks, detours. Why is it so frustrating when something is preventing you from getting where you want to go?
2. Check Numbers 14:32,33. The incident with the snakes happens near the end of the 40 years. Taking this into account, why is it easier to understand the reason they were grumbling?

3. From God's perspective, his children have been rebelling and grumbling constantly—at the Red Sea when they want to go back to Egypt, at Sinai when they worship the golden calf, at Kadesh where they are afraid to take the Promised land, at Meribah when they cry for water—while God has been faithfully providing manna, quail, and sandals that don't wear out. Why does God send the snakes this time when the people grumble?
4. “We detest this miserable food!” That's what they said about the miraculous manna God was blessing them with. When do you find yourself speaking in this way about the blessings God has given you?
5. The Israelites' favorite question is “WHY?” “Why bring us out here to die? When we ask God “WHY,” what are we insinuating about the way he is handling our lives?
6. Sometimes God gives a better solution in answer to our prayers than the one we asked for. The people ask for the Lord to take the snakes away. How does he give a better cure than what they asked for? Think of a time God answered your prayer with something better than what you were asking for?
7. What was so peculiar about the cure that God gave for the snake bites? What does it teach us about faith?
8. For what reasons is “Looking and Living” so opposite of the way we typically like to solve our problems?
9. What's the connection between the Bronze Serpent, Jesus, and the snake bite of the Ancient Serpent? See Revelation 12:9 and Genesis 3:1, John 3:14-16.