

Lesson B1.6 - Look to God for Healing



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Numbers 21:4-9

- Bible Characters: Moses, Israelites, snakes

God had led his people out of slavery in Egypt into the wilderness, where they were free. However, the people grew weary and started to grumble. Finally, God sent snakes into their camp to teach them a lesson. But God also gave them a way to heal from their snake bites — and their lack of faith.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Wilderness

After God freed the Hebrews from slavery, Moses led them through the desert wilderness. But the people became impatient and angry. When snakes came into camp, they changed their attitude.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." No accompaniment needed.

*Thank you, Jesus, for this day, for this day, for this day.
Thank you, Jesus, for this day and everything you do.*

*Help us as we learn and pray, learn and pray, learn and pray.
Help us as we learn and pray and turn our hearts to you!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Sometimes in life, we get sick or injured. What can we do when that happens? **Look to God for Healing!** Say that with me: **Look to God for Healing!** Doctors and nurses help us a lot, and we thank God for them. But we must not forget to also **Look to God for Healing!**

- Raise your hand if you've ever been sick enough to miss school. (*Choose a child to answer.*)
- What helped you get better? (*Choose a child to answer.*)

In today's story, a lot of people were dealing with snake bites. They didn't have doctors or medicines like we do today, and they were very scared. What did they do? Say it with me again: **Look to God for Healing!**

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

**Picture 1**

Tell the children: God brought his people out of Egypt. They were free! But as they traveled through the desert, they forgot the good things God had done for them. Soon they started complaining against Moses and against God.

Read the caption: God's people were hot and tired. "Why did you bring us out here, Moses?" they said. "We want better food! This is the worst!"

- Look at the people's faces in the picture. What are they feeling? [Upset.] Look at Moses. What is he doing? [Asking God to help him as he deals with these people.]
- Have you ever gotten grumpy on a long trip? What did you say and do?

**Picture 2**

Tell the children: God got angry at the people for having such a bad attitude. They had much to be thankful for, but all they could do was grumble and complain! God decided to teach them a lesson.

Read the caption: Many slimy snakes slid into their camp. The people were afraid. "We are sorry!" they said. "Please ask God to take away these snakes!"

- Count the number of snakes you can see in the picture. How many are there? [Nine]
- What would you do if the ground was covered by snakes? [Stay inside, pray, etc.]

**Picture 3**

Tell the children: So Moses prayed and asked God to forgive the people. God did. Then God told Moses to make a snake out of bronze metal and put it on a pole. Moses listened and did just as God said.

Read the caption: God told Moses, "Tell those who are bitten by a snake to look at the bronze snake on the pole. Then they will be healed."

- Why did the people need to be forgiven? [They had not trusted God or been thankful. They had complained rather than listening to Moses.]
- When have you faced something that scared you? What happened?

**Picture 4**

Tell the children: The people listened to God and faced the snake on the pole. Sure enough, those who were bitten by a snake did not die, but were healed. Once again, God showed mercy to his people even when they had been ungrateful.

Read the caption: The snake on the pole reminded the people of their sin. It also reminded them of how God forgave and healed them.

- Look at the snake on the pole. Why do you think God had the people face it? [The snake reminded them of how they had not been thankful when things were good.]
- How does being forgiven help us feel better? [We can relax and know all is well.]

Remember today's message: **Look to God for Healing!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*God had set the people free.
He gave them all that they would need.
But the people still complained,
grumbling all along the way.
“We hate our life; we hate our food.
Why won’t God do us some good?”
God was angry at that sin.
and sent some snakes to do them in.
When they realized their mistake,
God had Moses make a snake.
He put the snake upon a pole,
and all who saw it were made whole.*

g. Young Children’s Craft (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (*Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the “craft” for the day.*)

Slithering Snakes

Materials Needed: Green construction paper, pencils, scissors, red construction paper, colored circular stickers (or markers), tape, fishing line

Instructions: Give everyone a piece of green paper, a pencil and a pair of scissors. Invite kids to fold the paper in half, the long way. Cut along the fold. They will now have two long strips of paper. Tape these together, making one very long strip.

Have kids draw a squiggly snake going all the way down the green paper. Trace over this in marker. Invite kids to draw eyes and nostrils, and to decorate further with circular stickers, squiggly lines, etc. Cut out the snake.

Next, have kids cut a forked tongue out of a small piece of red construction paper. Tape this on the underside of the snake. Cut a long piece of fishing line and tape this underneath the snake’s head. Kids can pull their snake by the fishing line, and jerk it forward to “strike.” Anytime their snake “strikes,” they can remember today’s message: **“Look to God for Healing.”**

**h. Song (optional)**

This piggyback song can be sung to the tune, “Shoo, Fly, Don’t Bother Me.” You can listen to the tune on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children’s music sites. Use the motions provided or let the kids make up motions of their own as a group!

Hey, Snake, Don’t Bother Me!

Hey snake, don’t bother me!
(Flick left hand at the ground)

Hey snake, don’t bother me!
(Flick right hand at the ground)

Hey snake, don’t bother me
(Flick both hands at the ground)

Cuz God’s gonna help me be healthy!
(Look up and lift hands above head)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Moses brought God’s people out of Egypt into the wilderness. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

For all our friends, and family too,

Please bless them, Lord, in all they do.

Thank you for helping us today

So we could learn and grow and play.

Be with us as we leave again.

And bring us back next time. Amen.