

Week 13

The Bronze Snake

God's people, the Israelites, were living in the desert. God was taking them to a new land to live. But they wanted to be in their new homes right away. They complained and grumbled. They wished they had never left Egypt. "We don't like living in the desert," they fussed. "We're tired of the same food every day," they whined.

The people were not thankful to God for the things He had given them. God was upset that they were impatient. So God helped them to remember that they needed His grace. He sent snakes into their camp. The snake bites made the people very sick.

"Moses," they called. "We know we are bad. We are sorry we sinned. Please pray. Ask God to save us from the snakes!"

God loved His people. He told Moses, "Make a snake out of bronze metal. Put the snake on a pole. Tell the people to look to the snake, and they will live." Everyone who looked at the snake on the pole, trusting in God, was healed. This is how God saved His people.

(*) Many years later, Jesus compared Himself to this story. Just like the bronze snake was lifted on a pole, Jesus was lifted on the cross. We, too, are saved by

looking to Jesus in faith, trusting in God's promises. We are saved from something much worse than snake bites; we are saved from the punishment of our sins. Jesus promises to love us, forgive us, and save us for eternal life in heaven!

Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

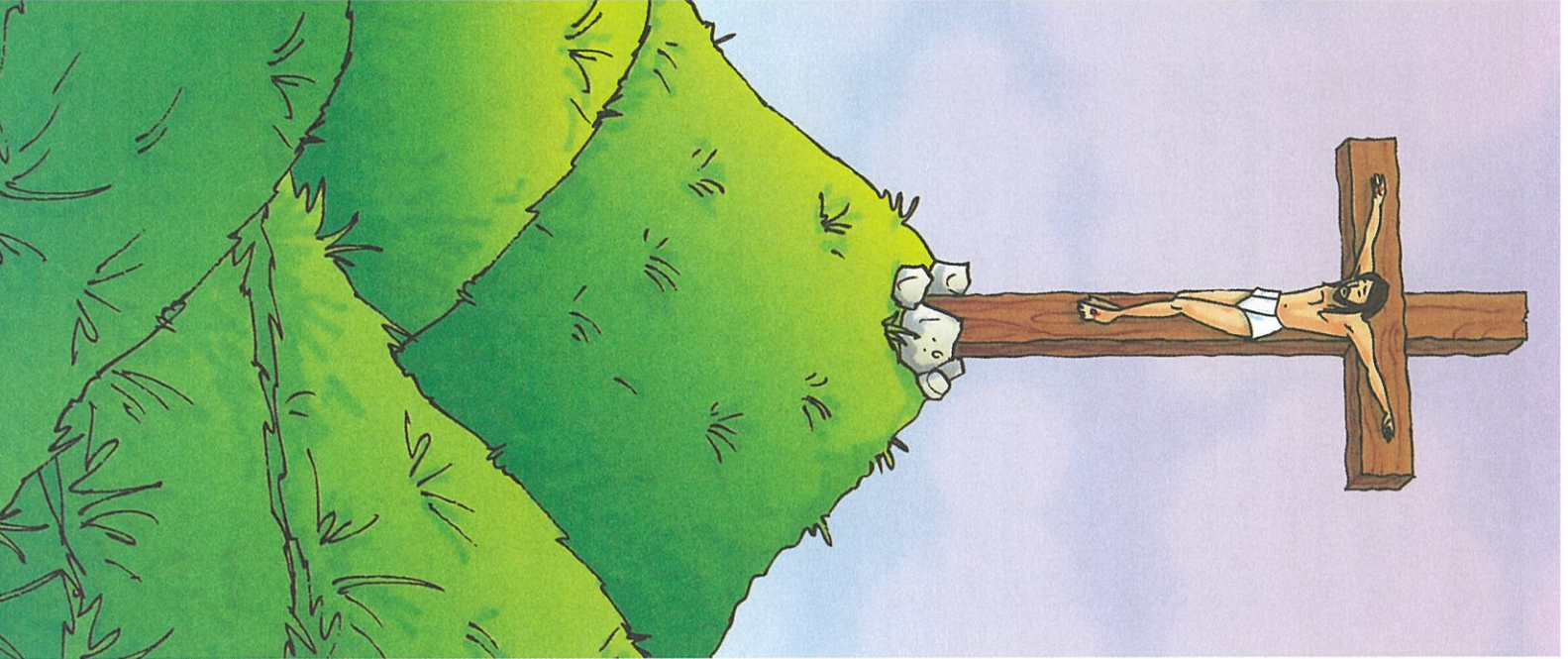
Think about It

The Bible shows us in Numbers 21:4-9 and in John 3:14-17 that God loves us and cares for us, for our physical and spiritual needs. By faith in Jesus and His merciful promises, we are saved now and eternally to live as His people!

Bible Words

The Lord is a stronghold ... in times of trouble.

Psalm 9:9



Dear Family,

We are a lot like God's people. When things weren't going their way, they grumbled. In this Bible story, the people of Israel were impatient. They wanted to get to the Promised Land right away. So, they complained. Does that sound familiar—wanting things your way and wanting them right now?

Like God's people in the Bible, we can repent. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can tell God we are sorry and ask for His forgiveness. In mercy, God saved His people from the dangerous snakes that came into the camp and bit the people. God had Moses make a pole with a bronze metal snake on it. When the people looked at it, trusting in God's promise to help them, they were saved. As God's children, we look to the cross of Jesus, trusting in His promise of forgiveness, and we are saved eternally.

When your child grumbles or has problems, talk together about it. Help your children learn that God always acts for our good. He saved His people and forgave them. God works for our good too. He saves us. He takes away our sins so that we can live in heaven with Him forever.

Read more about the lesson on pages 127–129 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

