God saves all who trust his way of rescue **BIG IDEA Bible Reading** Numbers 21:4-9 Read Numbers 21:4-9 The Israelites yet again fall into the same sin of complaining Preparation against Moses and God. This time, following God's judgement, there appears to be genuine repentance expressed (for the first time). The result is that God offers a way for their lives to be saved, if they will trust him. Jesus uses this incident as an analogy of his death on the cross (John 3:14-15). In both cases, the rescue was provided by God, in a way that clearly demonstrated it could only be God providing the rescue. Those suffering God's judgement needed to trust his words and look to the way of salvation. Everyone who did was saved. Take home message: Look to Jesus to be saved **Prepare** for "Getting Started": Get pictures of things that could help when unwell (e.g. a bandage, medicine, ice pack, etc). Also have a picture of a snake **Getting Started** Show the pictures – ask which is the odd one out? Why. Talk about how all the things that could help you feel better, but a picture of a snake couldn't do it. **Finding Out** Review from last lesson 1. Same old sin Q: What problem did the Israelites face? How did they respond? What did Moses do? How did God respond to this? What does that show us about God? Read Numbers 21:4-5 Q: What sounds familiar in these verses? • Read back through these accounts (Exodus 14:10-12; Exodus 15:22-24; Exodus) 16:1-3; Exodus 17:1-3; Numbers 11:4-6; Numbers 14:1-4; Numbers 20:2-5) Q: Why do you think the Israelites complained yet again, rather than trust God? *Q*: Are there situations where we tend to fall into the same pattern of worry, • stress, or complaining, rather than remembering what God is like and what he has done in the past? **Read Numbers 21:6** Q: How did God respond to the Israelites' complaining? 2. Repentance and Read Numbers 21:7 rescue Q: How is what the Israelites said here different to the previous occasions where ٠ they complained against God? This the first time we hear of genuine confession of sin from the Israelites. They also acknowledge that their only hope of rescue is if God intervenes. Read Numbers 21:8-9 Q: What did God tell Moses to do? • *Q*: Imagine you were there. What would you have thought about the instruction that all you had to do was look at a snake statue to be completely healed?

Sunday school lesson - Upper Primary

	I
	• Q: What happened to anyone who looked at the snake? What would have happened to them if they didn't look?
	 Q: Why do you think God chose this method to heal people?
	 It would have been clear to the Israelites that it was God who healed them. A
	metal image of a snake on a pole is clearly powerless. Just looking at it, if God
	wasn't involved, would have achieved nothing.
	 It was also clear that the people didn't deserve to be healed. They had repeated
	the same sin again and again. It was because of God's mercy they were forgiven
	and healed.
	 Q: Who was offered the opportunity to be healed?
	 "Anyone" who looked at the snake was healed and lived (v.9)
3. A picture of Jesus	Read John 3:14-15
	• Q: What does Jesus tell us the snake in the wilderness was a picture of?
	• Q: Why do you think Jesus used the incident with the snake to help Nicodemus
	understand about the cross? What was similar?
	> The cross can also look like a foolish thing to trust in for your life. A man executed
	as a criminal, mocked and laughed at. But if we do, then we are granted life.
	> This is not because we have done anything to deserve it. We also commit the
	same sins again and again. Its entirely because of God's mercy that he offers this
	way of being rescued.
	And it is entirely God's doing. We can't contribute anything. We are like the dying
	Israelites who could barely lift their head to turn their eyes to the snake pole. All
	we can do is look to Jesus and beg for mercy and forgiveness
	• Q: What does Jesus say will happen to "everyone" who believes?
So What?	If you have not yet trusted Jesus, what are you waiting for? All that is needed is
	to look to him and believe he is the only way to be rescued. He promises that
	<i>everyone</i> who does this will be saved, regardless of what we have done.
	Do you need reminding that your rescue does not depend on anything you do or
	have done? We are as helpless as the snake bite victims in the wilderness. All we
	can do/ have done is turn our eyes to God.
Memory Verse	John 3:15
	Everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	God saves all who trust his way of rescue
Bible Reading	Numbers 21:4-9
Preparation	Read Numbers 21:4-9 The Israelites yet again fall into the same sin of complaining against Moses and God. This time, following God's judgement, there appears to be genuine repentance expressed (for the first time). The result is that God offers a way for their lives to be saved, if they will trust him. Jesus uses this incident as an analogy of his death on the cross (John 3:14-15). In both cases, the rescue was provided by God, in a way that clearly demonstrated it could only be God providing the rescue. Those suffering God's judgement needed to trust his words and look to the way of salvation. Everyone who did so was saved.
	Take home message: Look to Jesus to be saved
	Prepare for "Getting Started": Get pictures of things that could help when unwell (e.g. a bandage, medicine, ice pack, etc). Also have a picture of a snake
Getting Started	Show the pictures – ask which is the odd one out? Why. Talk about how all the things that could help you feel better, but a picture of a snake couldn't do it.
Finding Out	• Q: What was the problem that God's people faced last time? What did they do?
1. Same old sin	What did God do? What did that show us about God?
	God's people continued on their journey in the desert. Every day God provided
	food for them and looked after them.
	• Q: What do you think they said to God?
	Read Numbers 21:4-5
	They complained again! They didn't trust God to give them water, even though
	he was there with them and looking after them.
	Read Numbers 21:6
	• <i>Q</i> : What did God do when his people complained against him again?
	Because they didn't trust God, he sent snakes. Some of them were bitten and became very sick. Some even died.
2. Repentance and	Read Numbers 21:7
rescue	• Q: What did the God's people say to him?
	They said that they were sorry. They knew what they had done was wrong and
	knew that they needed God to rescue them.
	There was nothing they could do themselves. They couldn't make themselves
	better. They needed God to help them.
	• Q: What do you think God did?
	Read Numbers 21:8-9
	God told Moses to do something very strange! He told him to make a snake out
	of metal, and then put the metal snake up on a pole in the middle of their camp.
	What a strange thing to do!
	God told the people that anyone who looked at the snake would get better!

	Refer back to the Getting Started activity. Can a picture of a snake make you better!
	• Q: What do you think you would have thought if you were there. You are feeling
	very sick because of the snake bite, and someone tells you if you just look at a
	statue of a snake you will feel better! Would you do it?
	Even though it felt like a very strange thing to do, the people had to trust that
	God was speaking the truth and do as he said.
	• Q: What do you think happened to people who looked at the snake?
	They were completely better straight away!
	• Q: Was it the statue of the snake that made them better?
	No – a metal snake couldn't do that! It was God who made them better. God
	healed everyone who trusted him and looked at the snake.
	> If God had given Moses special medicine to give the people, they might not have
	realised that it was God who healed them. By making them look at a snake statue
	(that clearly can't help them) God was showing the people that he was the one
	that was helping them. They needed his help.
3. A picture of Jesus	We also have a big problem that we need fixed. We haven't been bitten by a
	snake.
	• Q: What is our big problem?
	We have a problem with our heart.
	We all have hearts that don't love God the way we should. We disobey him and
	don't live the way we should.
	But God has given us a way to be healed as well. For us it is not a snake on a pole.
	God has given us something much better and more precious.
	• <i>Q: What do we need to trust to fix our big problem?</i>
	God gave us his only Son. He has told us that anyone who trusts him to rescue
	them, he will save.
	If we trust him, just like the people who looked at the snake, then straight away
	we will be saved.
	We can't fix the problem ourselves.
	But God can fix the big problem with our hearts. All we have to do is trust Jesus
So What?	Thank God that he sent Jesus so that we could be rescued.
	Pray that God would help us to trust Jesus to fix our hearts and save us.
Memory Verse	John 3:15
	Everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

BIG IDEA	God saves all who trust his way of rescue
Bible Reading	Numbers 21:4-9
Preparation	Read Numbers 21:4-9 The Israelites yet again fall into the same sin of complaining against Moses and God. This time, following God's judgement, there appears to be genuine repentance expressed (for the first time). The result is that God offers a way for their lives to be saved, if they will trust him. Jesus uses this incident as an analogy of his death on the cross (John 3:14-15). In both cases, the rescue was provided by God, in a way that clearly demonstrated it could only be God providing the rescue. Those suffering God's judgement needed to trust his words and look to the way of salvation. Everyone who did so was saved.
	Take home message: Look to Jesus to be saved
	Prepare for "Getting Started": Get pictures of things that could help when unwell (e.g. a bandage, medicine, ice pack, etc). Also have a picture of a snake
Getting Started	Show the pictures – ask which is the odd one out? Why. Talk about how all the things
	that could help you feel better, but a picture of a snake couldn't do it.
Finding Out	• Q: What was the problem that God's people faced last time? Did they behave
1. Same old sin	well? Did God give them water anyway?
	God is very kind and generous. He always does what is right.
	God's people continued on their journey in the desert.
	Every day God provided food for them and looked after them.
	• Q: What do you think they said to God?
	Read Numbers 21:5
	> They complained again! Even though God had been looking after them every day.
	They didn't trust God, even though he was there with them and looking after them.
	Because they didn't trust God, he sent snakes. Some of them were bitten and became very sick.
2. Repentance and	Read Numbers 21:7
rescue	• Q: What did the God's people say to him?
	They said that they were sorry. They knew what they had done was wrong and
	knew that they needed God to rescue them.
	There was nothing they could do themselves. They couldn't make themselves
	better. They needed God to help them.
	• Q: What do you think God did?
	God told Moses to do something very strange! He told him to make a snake out
	of metal, and then put the metal snake up on a pole in the middle of their camp.
	What a strange thing to do!
	• Q: Why do you think God told Moses to do that?
	God then told the people that anyone who looked at the snake would get better!

r	
	Refer back to the Getting Started activity. Can a picture of a snake make you better!
	• Q: What do you think you would have thought if you were there. You are feeling
	very sick because of the snake bite, and someone tells you if you just look at a
	statue of a snake you will feel better! Would you do it?
	 Even though it felt like a very strange thing to do, the people had to trust that
	God was speaking the truth and do as he said.
	• Q: What do you think happened to people who looked at the snake?
	They were completely better straight away!
	• <i>Q</i> : Was it the statue of the snake that made them better?
	No – a metal snake couldn't do that! It was God who made them better. God
	healed everyone who trusted him and looked at the snake.
	,
3. A picture of Jesus	We also have a big problem that we need fixed. We haven't been bitten by a
	snake, but we do have a problem with our heart.
	> We all have hearts that don't love God the way we should. We disobey him and
	don't live the way we should.
	But God has given us a way to be healed as well. For us it is not a snake on a pole.
	God has given us something much better and more precious.
	God gave us his only Son. He has told us that anyone who trusts him to rescue
	them, he will save.
	If we trust him, just like the people who looked at the snake, then straight away
	we will be saved.
	We can't fix the problem ourselves.
	But God can fix the big problem with our hearts. All we have to do is trust Jesus
	Thank God that he sent Jesus so that we could be rescued.
	Pray that God would help us to trust Jesus to fix our hearts and save us.
Memory Verse	John 3:15
	Everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.