

<p>3. A picture of Jesus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What happened to anyone who looked at the snake? What would have happened to them if they didn't look?</i> • <i>Q: Why do you think God chose this method to heal people?</i> ➤ 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. • <i>Q: Who was offered the opportunity to be healed?</i> ➤ "Anyone" who looked at the snake was healed and lived (v.9) <p>Read John 3:14-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What does Jesus tell us the snake in the wilderness was a picture of?</i> • <i>Q: Why do you think Jesus used the incident with the snake to help Nicodemus understand about the cross? What was similar?</i> ➤ 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 • <i>Q: What does Jesus say will happen to "everyone" who believes?</i>
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>John 3:15</i> Everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.</p>

<p>3. A picture of Jesus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Refer back to the Getting Started activity. Can a picture of a snake make you better! • <i>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?</i> ➤ 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. • <i>Q: What do you think happened to people who looked at the snake?</i> ➤ They were completely better straight away! • <i>Q: Was it the statue of the snake that made them better?</i> ➤ 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We also have a big problem that we need fixed. We haven't been bitten by a snake. • <i>Q: What is our big problem?</i> ➤ 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
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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.
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