



Service Devotional Guide

August 23, 2020

Start by praying and asking God to meet you in this passage, the sermon, and the reading and prayers. Then read the following passage several times.

Numbers 21: 4-9

⁴ Then the people of Israel returned to Mount Hor, and from there continued southward along the road to the Red Sea in order to go around the land of Edom. The people were very discouraged; ⁵ they began to murmur against God and to complain against Moses. “Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?” they whined. “There is nothing to eat here, and nothing to drink, and we hate this insipid manna.”

⁶ So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among them to punish them, and many of them were bitten and died.

⁷ Then the people came to Moses and cried out, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against Jehovah and against you. Pray to him to take away the snakes.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ Then the Lord told him, “Make a bronze replica of one of these snakes and attach it to the top of a pole; anyone who is bitten shall live if he simply looks at it!”

⁹ So Moses made the replica, and whenever anyone who had been bitten looked at the bronze snake, he recovered!

Questions to Ponder

1. “This past March our family went on a trip around Europe, and we rode a lot of trains. The question was: on long trips, what do you do to kill the time? What do you do in the “in between time?” When you are on a long journey, what do you do to pass the time?

2. **“I am not what I want to be, but I’m also not what I used to be.”** What did John Newton mean by this quote? Can you relate?
3. **“Moses’ job in that “in between time” was to prepare Israel for their destination. Before they arrived at the Promised Land, they needed to learn how to live in the Promised Land.”** How is God shaping you in the midst of your transition time? How is God preparing you for the future? What kind of things can we start doing NOW to prepare us for God’s new creation?
4. **“During your ‘in-between time’ you may be tempted to turn back. Go back to the old city, the old job, the old flame, the old habit, the old way of life.”** When you feel discouraged by life’s difficult journey, what do you do to keep going?
5. **“As you journey in the “in between times”, you can make friends along the way. There are other people who are going where you are going; people on the same journey as you are.”** Who are the people who give you strength in the midst of life’s journey? How has your church family been a support to you? Is there a way we can pray for you today?
6. **“Jesus is the one who gave his life to ensure that we will reach our destination. Jesus is the engineer of our salvation.”** How easy is it for you to trust Jesus when you are “neither here nor there?”

Closing Prayer

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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