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Message Notes
April 20, 2025





Lifted Up What about Israel John 3:13-17 & Numbers 21:4-9

"¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he **gave** his only Son, that whoever **believes** in him should not **perish** but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be **saved** through him." - John 3:13-17

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live." – Numbers 21:4-9

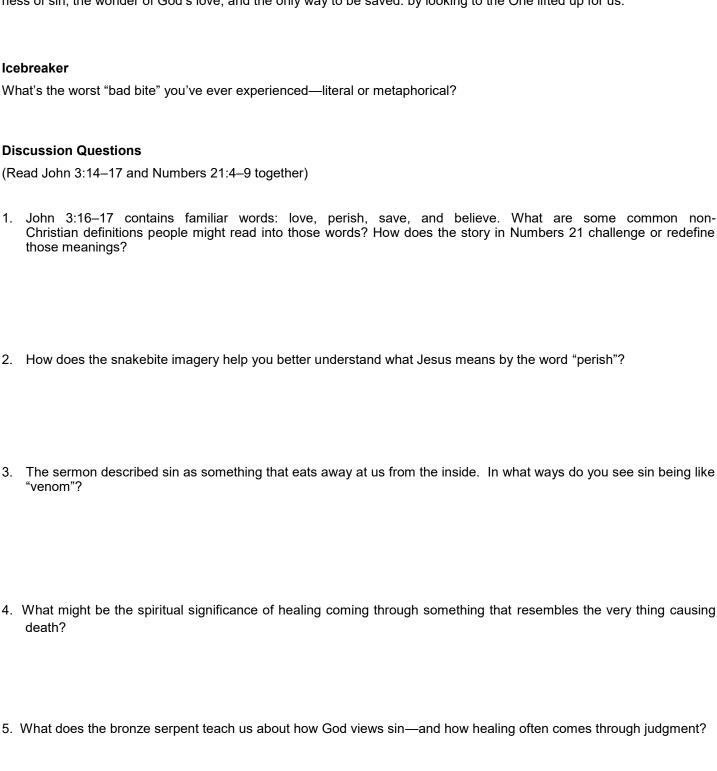
What is <i>"perishing"</i> like? _	
What is <i>"saving"</i> like?	
What is <i>"giving"</i> like?	
What is <i>"believing"</i> like?	

Small Group Discussion Lifted Up

John 3:13-17 & Numbers 21:4-9

Big Idea

Jesus connects John 3:16 to a strange and vivid image from Israel's history—not to confuse us, but to clarify the seriousness of sin, the wonder of God's love, and the only way to be saved: by looking to the One lifted up for us.



6.	Why would Jesus identify himself with such a disturbing image—the serpent? How does this reshape your view of the cross? Examine 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13, Romans 8:3 to help?
7.	Genesis 3:15 promised the serpent would be crushed by a wounded Savior. How is that fulfilled in Jesus—and why is it central to the message of Easter?
8.	According to this story, what does it really mean to believe in Jesus? Why is that so simple—and yet so difficult—for many people to accept?