



WELCOME
to
RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

Big Lake
Buffalo
Sauk Rapids

May 17, 2026



Milestones - Part 4
"Snake-Bitten"

Pastor Tom Lundeen | May 17, 2026

Note **Revelation 20:2**

It's interesting in Numbers 21 to see how God chose to use snakes, not only in the lives of the people of Israel, but also as an illustration Jesus pointed to in the New Testament as being crucial for everyone to understand the purpose of His _____ (note **John 3:14-15**).

Because Jesus specifically pointed to this event from Numbers 21 to help us understand why He came into our world, this should get our _____.

1. God Can Say, "_____"

Note **Numbers 21:1-3**

Almost immediately after God provided another victory...the Israelites began the same old _____ and rejected God's grace (note **Numbers 21:4-5**).

Note **Numbers 21:6**

The Lord is not a _____ who can be ignored and taken for granted.

God is of course _____, patient, and merciful.

Note **Psalm 7:11; Galatians 6:7-8**

Note **Numbers 21:7**

Notice: no one charged God with any _____.

Living on purpose means I recognize just _____ it is I'm dealing with.

2. Embrace God's _____

Note **Numbers 21:7-8**

But God didn't take away the snakes even though He provided a _____ for their bites.

Note **Numbers 21:9**

So God left in place the punishment for Israel's sin (snakes); but then He also provides a _____ of His grace and mercy (bronze snake on a pole), that people bitten by a snake would need to look at.

This was, by the way, the _____ recorded time of the Israelites *grumbling/complaining*.

It _____!

MILESTONES MATTER:

- Note **John 3:14-15**
- Jesus is telling a critical truth: just as the bronze snake provided physical healing and life, so the cross provides us with spiritual healing and _____ life.
- The cross, like the bronze snake, reminds us of our _____ and the punishment we deserve for our sins.
- Seeing Jesus on the cross reminds us of the _____ we deserve for our poor choices, failures, and wrongs.
- But it's also a reminder of the incredible mercy and grace of God and His unequalled _____ to forgive.
- By looking to what Jesus did on the cross, the spiritual _____ of sin can be removed from our system, and a new life is available to embrace.
- Note **John 3:16**

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

App: Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you could have any view from your back porch what would it be?

Read **Numbers 21:1-9**

1. After God gave the Israelites victory, they quickly returned to grumbling and complaining (**Numbers 21:1-5**). We are just as likely to forget God's goodness. What steps should we be taking to maintain a proper focus?
2. Pastor Tom said, "Living on purpose means I recognize just Who it is I'm dealing with." When you have taken God's goodness for granted and slipped into grumbling or complaining, how has God gotten your attention?
3. Pastor Tom said, "Just as the bronze snake brought physical healing and life, so the cross brings spiritual healing and eternal life." What kept you from believing (if you've already said your 'YES!') and why does it seem so hard for other people to take that step?
4. Pastor Tom said the bronze snake reminds us not only of our depravity, but also of God's mercy, grace, and willingness to forgive. What does God's repeated forgiveness of Israel — and of us — reveal about His desire for relationship?
5. How have you pursued restoration with God after earning the consequences of rebellion ("fiery snakes"), and how has that changed your choices about how to live?

Setting the scene... (scan here!)



PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

Day One: John 5; Psalm 17

Day Two: Deuteronomy 14; Proverbs 12

Day Three: Romans 11; 1 Corinthians 16

Day Four: 1 John 2; Ezekiel 44

Day Five: Ecclesiastes 1; Acts 27



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1. God Can Say, "Enough"

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Almost immediately after God provided another victory...the Israelites began the same old rant and rejected God's grace (note **Numbers 21:4-5**).

Note **Numbers 21:6**

The Lord is not a doormat who can be ignored and taken for granted. God is of course kind, patient, and merciful.

Note **Psalms 7:11; Galatians 6:7-8**

Note **Numbers 21:7**

Notice: no one charged God with any wrongdoing.

Living on purpose means I recognize just Who it is I'm dealing with.

2. Embrace God's Grace

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So God left in place the punishment for Israel's sin (snakes); but then He also provides a symbol of His grace and mercy (bronze snake on a pole), that people bitten by a snake would need to look at.

This was, by the way, the last recorded time of the Israelites *grumbling/complaining*.
It worked!

MILESTONES MATTER:

- Note **John 3:14-15**
- Jesus is telling a critical truth: just as the bronze snake provided physical healing and life, so the cross provides us with spiritual healing and eternal life.
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