



**Topeka Bible Church**  
**Settled Living in Unsettled Times, #11:**  
***"Snakes on a Plain!"***  
**Community Group Study Questions**  
**Numbers 21:4-9 and selected passages**

1. Why did the Israelites have to go around the land of Edom (*Numbers 21:4; 20:18-21; Judges 11:17*)? How long had they been "wandering" at this point? Would you have become impatient like them? Why is patience so important to God (*James 5:7-9*)?
  
2. What attitudes do the Israelites exhibit in *Numbers 21:5* (cf. *Exodus 14:11; Numbers 11:4-6*)? Do you struggle with belief in God's promises like they did? How does a lack of contentment reveal a lack of faith (cf. *1 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:14*)?
  
3. What sort of judgment did God send upon his disbelieving people (*Numbers 21:6; 1 Corinthians 10:9*)? Have you ever experienced God's judgment for your disbelief? How can you help safeguard yourself from disbelief (*Romans 4:19-20; 11:20-21*)?
  
4. Did the Israelites exhibit genuine repentance (*Numbers 21:7*)? How do you know if repentance is genuine (*Psalms 78:32-34; cf. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11*)? Is simply saying "I'm sorry" or "Will you forgive me" enough (*Psalms 51:1-3, 16-17*)?

5. Does God's solution to the problem of the snakes seem strange to you (Numbers 21:8-9)? Why didn't God simply take the snakes away? (Note that the bronze snake remained among the Israelites for a long time: 2 Kings 18:4)
  
6. Where else does this "snake" incident get mentioned in the Bible (*John 3:14-15*)? What happened when the Israelites looked up to the bronze snake (*Numbers 21:9*)? What happens when a person "looks" up to (or trusts in) Jesus on the cross (*John 3:16; 12:32-33*)?
  
7. While snakes appear to be the Israelites' problem, the real problem for them (and for us) is sin (*Romans 3:23; 6:23*). Have you trusted in God's solution (i.e. Jesus Christ) for the problem of your sin (*Acts 4:12; 2 Corinthians 5:21*)? Whom do you know that needs to hear this good news today (*Romans 1:16-17*)?

**Memory Verse:**

**"So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived."  
(Numbers 21:9, NIV)**