

The BIBLE Story

The Bronze Snake

Numbers 20–21

The Israelites did not trust God to lead them into the promised land, so God made them walk around in the wilderness. **The Israelites complained because they did not have water to drink.** They argued with Moses. “Why did you lead us out of Egypt? There is no water!” they said.

God told Moses and Aaron to take the staff from the tent and stand in front of all the people. He told Moses and Aaron to **speak to a rock, and water would come out.** So Moses took the staff. He told all the people to watch. **Instead of speaking to the rock like God had said to do, Moses used the staff to hit the rock two times. Water rushed out of the rock, and the people and animals drank.**

But God said that because Moses and Aaron did not obey and trust Him, they could not go into the promised land.

The Israelites had a long journey, and they complained. They said, “Why have you led us out here from Egypt to die in the wilderness?

We have no bread or water!”

This time, God disciplined His people by sending snakes that bit the Israelites. The people realized they had sinned by complaining to



God. They told Moses, “We know we have sinned. Please ask God to take the snakes away.”

So Moses spoke to God. God said, “Make something that looks like a snake and put it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will get better.”

Moses made a snake out of bronze and put it on a pole. Whenever someone was bitten, all that person had to do was look at the bronze snake, and he got better.

Christ Connection: When the Israelites sinned, God sent snakes to punish them. But anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake on the pole and live. We sin, too. Our sin keeps us from God. Anyone who looks to Jesus and trusts in Him is saved and has life with God forever.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Strike and slither:** Give each child a craft stick and a strip of ribbon. As you tell the story, invite boys and girls to strike the floor with the stick. At the appropriate time, wave the ribbon strip like a slithering snake.
- **Make sound effects:** Lead preschoolers to make sound effects as you tell the Bible story. Make glug-glug-glug water sounds, whine like the Israelites may have, or make a ssssss sound as the snakes enter the story. Consider using a hand signal to start and stop sound effects.