



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 040 - Anything But Snakes! Numbers 21:4-9

God's response to Israel's complaining intensified over time. The first time God didn't even punish them, He simply responded with patience and grace (Ex. 15:22-26). But as they failed to learn their lesson He gradually began ramping up the punishment, especially after the nation refused to enter the Promised Land because of the ten spies. This pattern of gradually intensified punishments is the same He used with Pharaoh when he kept refusing to let the Israelites go.

This time it was fiery serpents. Many people died. The Israelites confessed their sins; Moses prayed for the snakes to be removed, and God said, "No." The snakes remained, and they kept biting people and injecting their venom.

- How did God's decision for the serpents to remain in the camp rather than remove them help separate the believers from the unbelievers?

This incident points back to another serpent that injected his venom in the Garden of Eden. But this venom wasn't a poison that could kill your body; it was the venom of sin that could destroy your soul and body forever in hell.

That venom remains inside us in this life—in our sinful nature. But God has provided an antidote to keep it from destroying us. Jesus was lifted up on the cross, so that looking to Him and trusting God's promise to forgive us for Jesus' sake, the serpent's venom can do us no harm.

- Describe some situation(s) in your life which forced you to look in faith to Jesus lifted on the cross.