

TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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The odds that you might be bitten by a snake are **1 in 37,500** (I Googled it). The odds that you might receive a “snakebite” by evil in your spirit, soul, or body is exactly 1:1 (I didn’t have to Google that). Sin is the snakebite we experience, and the only remedy for the wound it causes to look to the cross. Our worship this Sunday will focus on the curious story of Moses crafting a bronze snake and hoisting it on a pole for his bitten people to look upon, and live; Jesus later compares himself to that snake, knowing that he would be “lifted up” on the cross and die of snakebite so that we might “fix our eyes upon him,” and have eternal life.

1. Read Numbers 21:4-9. Identify and describe the kind of sin – or “snakebite” – the people of Israel inflicted upon themselves in this account.
2. The parallel, for a person of faith, of the serpent on a pole and our Savior on the cross is too obvious to miss. Review Genesis chapter 3 and ponder: Why a snake, of all things?
3. Read John 3:1-1-14. In your study Bible, read the comments about being “born again” (vss. 3-8).
4. Read John 3:14-15 again, and then Hebrews 12:2. What is the “cure” for the snakebite of sin? What, do you think, was the “joy” set before Jesus, as he faced the cross?
5. Go to the [Wikipedia article on Nehushtan](#) to explore the curious story of how the bronze snake became an idol, which had to be destroyed for the good of God’s people.

Almighty God, because you provided the final sacrifice for sin in the Person of your Son Jesus, empower us to be living sacrifices as a response of gratitude to you, for you live and reign with the Holy Spirit as one God, now and forever; amen.