

The Chosen

Season 1: Episode 7, Part 1 (18 minutes)

Jesus said, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life” (John 3:14).

Read the following Scripture passage aloud: John 3:1-15

(Each student needs their own Bible to read and reflect on the Scripture passage.)

During the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites, after God had led them out of the slavery of Egypt under the leadership of Moses, God was teaching them things about Himself and helping them to see their own sinfulness, so that they would learn from their mistakes. In the Book of Numbers Chapter 21, the people became discouraged again, and in their unbelief they murmured against Moses for bringing them into the wilderness. They had already forgotten that it was their own sin – their lack of faith that God would protect them in the Promised Land by overcoming the “giants” – that caused them to be there, and they tried to blame Moses for it. As a judgment against the people for their sin, God sent poisonous serpents into the camp, and people began to die. This showed the people that they were the ones in sin, and they came to Moses to confess their sin and ask for God’s mercy. When Moses prayed for the people, God instructed him to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole so the people could be healed (Numbers 21:5-7).

God was teaching the people something about faith. It doesn’t make sense to think that looking at a bronze image could heal anyone from snakebite, but that is exactly what God told them to do. **It took an act of faith in God’s plan for anyone to be healed.** Further, the serpent on the stick was a reminder of their sin which brought about their suffering.

- 1) Allow the students to re-read the same passage again, this time silently.
Reading the passage two times allows us to be clear on all the details so that we become more familiar with what is happening.
- 2) What “stood out” for you in the passage? Allow the students a minute to think about this.
Ask 2 or 3 students to share their response aloud.
- 3) Watch Episode 7, Part 1
 - Sinai Peninsula, 8th Century B.C. The people have/are being bitten by a serpent. God told Moses to make a pole with a bronze serpent on it. If the dying but repentant Israelites looked at the pole, they would be healed. Looking at the bronze serpent was an act of faith and reminded the people of their sin of rejecting God.
 - Matthew is a rich tax collector and is protected by Gaius, a Roman soldier. No one likes Matthew because he is Jewish but collect very high taxes from the Jewish people.
 - Praetor Quintas, a government official of Rome, speaks with Nicodemus about Jesus, whom he calls the “Miracle Worker.”

- As the Apostles are setting up camp, Jesus is asked if He likes to travel around. Jesus answers that He wants to do the will of His Father, spreading the message of salvation to all people and so He is happy to move about from city to city.
 - Mary speaks with Jesus about Nicodemus wanting to set up a meeting with Jesus at night.
 - Matthew visits his family home and speaks with his mother. Matthew is worked up by the miracles of Jesus. He wonders if his whole world, everything he thought he knew, what if it was wrong.
- 4) What “stood out” for you in the Episode? If needed, some of the list from the brief overview above could be named for students to help think about what was most impactful for them.
- 5) Go back and re-read the Scripture passage again.
After the process of reading the Scripture passage, writing down what “stood out” for you, and watching the Episode, what now stands out the most for you?
- 6) Discussion questions:
- IN the Old Testament, Moses made a pole with a bronze serpent. What does this symbol foreshadow?
 - In response to John’s questions, Jesus said, “I want to do the will of My Father.” Read John 6:38-40. What is the will of the Father?
 - When Mary told Jesus that Nicodemus wanted to meet with Him, why did Jesus agree to this meeting?
 - After the healing of the paralytic (in the episode 6), Matthew went to visit his Eema (his mother). Matthew was visibly shaken that Jesus healed a man of life-long paralysis. Matthew asked his Eema, “Is it possible to overturn the laws of nature?” What do such miracles by Jesus, in which He overturns the laws of nature, reveal to us about Who He is?
- 7) Close the session in a prayer. Thank Jesus for two specific things, no matter how small.