



## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of September 7, 2014

**This Week's Focus:** Looking to Jesus for our salvation.

**This Week's Text:** Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:1-15

*Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. **Philippians 4:11-13***

*We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased. **C. S. Lewis.***

**Related Texts:** Genesis 3:1-13, Ecclesiastes 2:9-11, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- The story about the Bronze Snake (verses 4-9) falls between two acts of faith and victory. What does that teach us about God and ourselves?
- In what ways has God recently provided for your needs?
- How prone are we to be discontent with God's provisions?
  - What does that say about the idols of our hearts?
  - What does that say about God's character?
- Discuss the similarities between Adam and Eve's sin and the complaints of the Israelites.
- What was God trying to show the Israelites by sending the snakes into the camp?

- Why are our hearts never satisfied? What are some of the things we cling to looking for contentment?
- Discuss the three “pre-solutions” that Pastor Lou mentioned before the Israelites received their healing from the snakebites. Circumstances-Community-Change.
- How did the Israelites receive their healing? What is the significance of this method?
- Read John 3:1-15. What did Jesus say to Nicodemus about entering the kingdom of God?
- How does the narrative of Numbers 21 illustrate that truth?
- What does it mean and what was the purpose of “lifting up the Son of Man”?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- The gospel is simply “look” to Jesus!
- Jesus is the better and greater Moses who did not intercede by lifting up a pole but interceded eternally by being lifted up on the pole.
- The gospel of Jesus Christ is “stop trying to save yourself, and start looking to me!”
- Jesus Christ was lifted up and received my punished for sin, becoming a curse so that I can be forgiven.
- Jesus Christ was lifted up so that I can be satisfied in HIM!

### **Next Week's Text:** Community Group