

*Biblical Drama based on Numbers 21:4-9 — Character Parts: Narrator 1-5, Man, Woman, Moses, God*

Narrator 1: After God had brought the Israelites safely out of Egypt through the Red Sea, Moses led the people in the desert. Even though God provided for them all the way, the people still complained.

Moses had planned to take them around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses.

Man: Moses! Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?

Woman: There is no food and no water out here in the desert. Besides, we hate this miserable food.

Moses: I thought you said you didn't have any food and water —

Man: Well, sure, we have that "manna" bread that God gave us from heaven — but that's it.

Woman: That, and the water that God produced in a miracle from the rock —

Man: Sure, there is the water, but that's all we have —

Woman: Of course, God also gave us a flock of quail to eat. They were good!

Man: Sure, the manna and the water and the quail were good. But, we're not going to put up with it any more, Moses! Why won't God do anything to help us?

Moses: Help you? What about all the plagues that God sent on the Egyptians? What about the Red Sea?

Man: Well, sure, God did send the plagues.

Moses: And he did free us from slavery.

Man: Oh, yeah. There was that slavery thing.

Woman: And then God actually parted the Red Sea for us and let us all cross on dry land!

Man: Nice work that was.

Woman: Then to top it all off, God defeated our enemies! He drowned the Egyptian horses and chariots beneath the waves of the Sea!

Man: Well, sure. God did do that. But apart from the

manna from heaven, the water from a rock, the flocks of quail, the plagues on the Egyptians, the freeing from slavery, the parting of the Red Sea, and defeating our enemies — what has God ever done for us?

Narrator 2: After a while, the Lord got sick of listening to the people complain, so he sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people with poison. (*act out the attack of the snakes*)

Man: Ouch! What was that?

Woman: It looks like a snake! Actually, it looks like a bunch of snakes!

Man: Where did these snakes come from?

Woman: How should I know?

Man: Uh, I'm not feeling too good... (*falls down*)

Narrator 3: When the snakes came into the camp, many Israelites died. They called out to the Lord for help and confessed their sin.

Man: We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you!

Woman: Moses, please help us. Pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us!

Narrator 4: So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord told Moses what to do.

God: Make a serpent out of bronze, just like the ones that bit the people. Put the serpent on a pole and tell everyone who is bitten to look at it.

Moses: What good will that do?

God: The people need to face the consequences of their sin. Only then will they be healed. All who look upon the bronze snake will live.

Narrator 5: So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

On that day, the people came face to face with what their sin had caused; but God used that same sign of sin to show the people his mercy.