

Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.

Scripture

Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

The bronze serpent points to both God's punishment of sin and His salvation through Jesus.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

In response to the Israelites' rebellion, God acted quickly. He punished them. It was the type of punishment that would strike fear into the heart of any person. Suddenly, poisonous snakes showed up in the camp. Biting. Infecting. Killing. The people's break in their trust of God was a serious offense. The Lord would not take it lightly. When they spoke out against their circumstances, they were speaking directly against God's character.

As the rebellious people began to die, they cried out to Moses for help. Once God heard the people's penitent cry, He provided a way of restoration through their faith. In an act of divine irony, God instructed Moses to make a serpent of bronze and place it on a pole. If those bitten by the snakes on the ground would look to the snake that had been lifted up, they would be healed.

- ▶ **When have you become impatient with God? Did your impatience cause you to grumble about what He had or hadn't done?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

"Jesus became what was killing us—sin itself—when he was lifted up on the cross and thereby became the remedy for sin." —Nancy Guthrie, *The Lamb of God*

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

- 1. What are some instructions or answers our family is waiting to hear from God?**
- 2. How can we remain patient as we continue to wait to hear from Him? Why is this important?**
- 3. What are we supposed to do as we wait for God?**
- 4. How can our patience in waiting for God be a testimony to others of our faith and trust in Him?**