



The Curse

Josh Morris

Focus In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve listened to the serpent and decided to be independent from God by eating fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Snakes represent many types of evil throughout the Bible. Jesus is the antidote to the bite and attack of the enemy.

Fun Do you prefer adventures in nature or adventures in civilization?

Review Key Scriptures: Genesis 3:4–5; Numbers 21:4–9

1. The Snake

The image of the snake is found throughout the Bible. When Adam and Eve sinned, it was not simply because they ate from the forbidden tree. Their sin was trying to live independent from God. Independence from God is the sin that brings a curse. To this day we still eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The antidote to this is eating from the Tree of Life: Jesus.

2. The Bite

Numbers 21 tells the story of the Israelites complaining against God. Because of their complaints, God sent venomous snakes, and many were killed. When the people repented, God told Moses to make a snake and put it on a pole. Anyone who looked at it would be saved. In the same way, Jesus was put onto a pole (the cross) and was lifted up. Whoever looks to Jesus for life will live.

3. The Antidote

Jesus is the antidote to all the evil brought by the snake in the Garden of Eden. When Moses threw down his staff in front of the Egyptians, it became a snake

and ate the other snakes. This is a picture of Jesus. He became a curse and took all curses. Jesus became sin and took all sin so that we could have life.

Group Dynamics Idea If this is the first semester your group is meeting, take time to intentionally get to know each other. Pick a week that you spend a little less time on the lesson and more time asking questions that will help build connections within the group.

Discuss

1. Why do you think most people are afraid of snakes? Why do you think snakes are so symbolic in the Bible?
2. What are some ways we still eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil today?
3. Adam and Eve sinned when they stopped depending on God. In what areas of your life do you struggle with depending on God or trusting Him?
4. Read Numbers 21:4–9. What are some things today that torment us like snakes? How does turning our eyes to Jesus change our situation?
5. How has Jesus been like an antidote in your own life?
6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Adam and Eve sinned when they believed the snake and tried to be independent of God.
- The enemy (snake) tries to attack us in many ways.
- Jesus is the antidote for the evil of the enemy.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for protecting us from the evil ways of the enemy. Forgive us for the times we have tried to be independent from You. Thank You, Jesus, for taking all sin and all curses of the enemy. You are the antidote for all the works of the enemy, and You bring life. We turn our eyes to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip As a leader, people in the group often look to you to know the answers to questions that arise—even ones that can be deeply theological. You don't need to know the answer to every question that comes up. It's okay to not know, and it's okay to tell your

group you don't know. Sometimes people's search for certain answers is God's way of causing them to seek Him more, study, and search it out for themselves. As a leader, you need to know you are free from any pressure to feel like you need to know all the answers.