

Bible chat ws 18 9 22

Numbers 21: 4 - 9

4 They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,[a] to go round Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!'

6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.' So Moses prayed for the people.

8 The Lord said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.' 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

John 3: 13 - 17

13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

1. Share any memories, thoughts or reflections you may have in the aftermath of the Queen's funeral.
2. Discuss how the story of the snake being lifted up on a pole in the wilderness illuminates the story of Jesus being 'lifted up' - ie crucified.
3. The Israelites in the wilderness were being saved from snakebites. Without using the word 'sin', describe what people are saved from by the cross?
4. In John, those who are being saved simply have to 'believe in him'. What do you think it means to believe in him?
5. The word translated 'perish' in the NIV for verse 16 means 'to die, to disappear or to be lost'. What are the consequences of people not believing in Jesus?
6. What does the cross mean to you? Try to explain the impact it has on you.
7. We have been reflecting on our own sin and failure. Can you believe that God no longer sees your sin? How can the cross not only bring us forgiveness but also transform us?