



SDG Discussion Guide

Numbers 21:4-9

March 11, 2018

For starters:

When road repair or an accident makes you late for an appointment, how do you feel?

If you had to pick one, are you an impatient person or a patient one? Elaborate.

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud chapter 21:4-9 in your group. Before you begin the discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning? Then, read it aloud another time.

Now that you have read and read the text together, what points and questions of the text arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. What have you learned from Numbers thus far? What has stood out to you most? Any particular insights you want to share with your group?
2. In the chapter 21 passage, who did the Israelites first turn to for help?
3. What did the Lord tell Moses to do to help the people who had been bitten?
4. What did the people need to do to be healed?
5. How do you think sin is similar to being bitten by a poisonous snake?
6. What could the "venom" of sin do to us if we do not get help?
7. What does God do when you need discipline? When you need relief? How does this compare to God's actions in this passage?
8. What use of this incident does Jesus make (see John 3:14-15; 6:32-40)? How have you availed yourself of the lifted up Healer and Bread of Life?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you to pray. Ask God to speak to you and to show you anything you need to see in or around the content of this passage. Pause and sit in silence a while, listening.... Ask God to help you to respond. Ask God to both encourage and challenge you regarding any particular area where you may need it. Go forth this week in the confidence of God's impetus to provide for you and those around you in the ways you need most.

*These questions were adapted from The Serendipity Bible for Groups (Zondervan, 1998).