



SERPENT & STICKS

THE FOUR TREES OF GOD'S CHARACTER

SESSION

3

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. I often get accused of things that I have NOT done. I guess I just have that look.
2. I do everything I can to avoid the appearance of evil.
3. Jesus does not want you to experience justice.
4. Moses' bronze serpent on a pole represents Satan & the fall of man.
5. God wants to be accused of bad things.

DIG DEEPER

◦ Have you ever taken the blame or punishment for somebody else's mistake? What did that feel like?

› **READ John 3:14-18** (NIV)

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. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

◦ In John 3:14, Jesus makes the connection between himself and the image of the bronze snake in Moses' day. What does it say about God's character that he would choose to represent himself as a snake here instead of a lamb or lion?

» What are the similarities between the bronze serpent on a pole and Jesus on the cross?

DIG DEEPER... CONTINUED

- John 3:16 was revolutionary to Nicodemus and the Jewish nation in that the word “world” included pagans and Gentiles. What does this say about God’s character?
- How is John 3:18 an echo of the experience of the fiery serpents for the Children of Israel in the wilderness?

›READ Galatians 3:13 (NIV)

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

- What does it tell you about God that he would become “a curse for us” by being hung on a pole?

›READ 1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

- What do you think that it means that Jesus “bore our sins”
- What does it tell you about God’s character that he would be willing to assume the image and position of the serpent just to express His love for apathetic mankind?

MY PRAYER...

1. Am I fully trusting that God has taken away all of my sins?
2. What curse has God taken away from me that I am still hanging on to?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?

