



# SERPENT & STICKS

## THE FOUR TREES OF GOD'S CHARACTER

### SESSION

# 2

### YES, NO & MAYBE

1. I could live with all of my earthly possessions in one steamer trunk and be happy.
2. When I'm hungry, I become really "hangry."
3. God attacks you with bad things when you make Him mad.
4. God displays His power through bad things.
5. God wants us to believe in magic.

### DIG DEEPER

- Would you describe yourself as someone who is consistently content, or as one who is always striving for more?

» **READ Numbers 21:4-9** (NIV)

*4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around 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.*

- Why do you think that the Israelites were dying of snake bites? Did God cause it in His anger?

» What problems do you have with the way Moses relates this story?

**DIG DEEPER... CONTINUED**

- Why would God instruct Moses to create the symbol of a bronze serpent on a pole? Isn't this a symbol of evil and sin?
  
- Had God instructed the Israelites to make any other symbols out of bronze? How might this be related?
  
- Why do you think that God offered healing in this way? What does it say about His character?
  
- Do you know what became of this bronze serpent on a pole after this event? (2 Kings 18:4)
  - » What does this say about us?
  
- How does God's response to our lack of contentment help us understand His character more?

**MY PRAYER...**

1. Am I acting discontented with some of the things God is giving me?
2. What is God calling me to look to for healing today?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

