

FIRST AID - SNAKEBITE

WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

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.” (Numbers 21:8)

Do you have ophidiophobia? If so, you are not alone. It has been estimated that 40% of the population has it. Ophidiophobia gets its name from the Greek word for snake – “ophis”. Snakes can be dangerous, deadly, and just plain skin-crawling creepy. It’s no wonder that so many people fear them.

Whether you have ophidiophobia or not, all people should have a healthy fear of one particular snake. Satan is described by many names in the Bible and “snake or serpent” is one of them. Already back in the Garden of Eden, Satan slinked into the lives of humans and brought sin and death and punishment in hell with him.

Ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin, people have been born with sin. Everyday people show this sinfulness through their willful disobedience to the Lord and his word. The Israelites were no different. Once again, they complained about the Lord and rebelled against him. The Lord punished them for their disobedience by sending poisonous snakes to bite and kill them.

However, the Lord did not abandon his people. He commanded Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Whenever an Israelite looked at that snake, he would live.

Many years later Jesus clearly stated that the bronze snake was a prophecy about him. He said, **Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14,15).** Jesus has crushed the head of Satan the snake by dying on the cross for you. You now longer have to have a fear of sin or Satan.

THE PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, there are many things in life that can be scary. I ask you to comfort me and help me when I feel afraid. I know that you can help me whenever I am worried or troubled. You have already taken away my biggest fears – the fear of being punished for my sin and the fear of ending up in hell. You paid for all of my sins on the cross. You assured me of a place in heaven by rising from the dead. Since you are my Living Lord and Savior, I turn all my fears over to you. Amen.