

## DISCUSS

- In this passage, Jesus mentions heaven. What do we know about heaven from the scriptures? List some of the things we know about heaven from the Bible.
- How literal of a place do you think heaven is?
- Why don't people talk as much about heaven in contemporary culture? Do you think about eternal life?
- The story Jesus draws upon from Numbers 21 is a story about physical healing. What do you think is the connection between healing and the subjects of heaven / eternal life? Is heaven the ultimate healing for instance?
- Like the bronze serpent, Jesus was lifted up in the crucifixion. How did Jesus become a kind of 'bronze serpent' for us in going to the cross?
- What do you think it means to 'believe' or 'look to'?

## APPLY

- Consider ways you as a group can be more 'heavenly-minded' in the sense of thinking about eternal things.
- Gazing upon Jesus in 'believing faith' leads to our lives being healed and saved – what aspect of Jesus do you need to gaze more upon in your walk with God?
- How can you take the step of helping someone else see Jesus and begin to look to him to be healed / saved?

## GROUP PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank Jesus for being willing to be lifted up in going to the cross for our healing and salvation.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for a greater 'picture' of Jesus – to see Jesus in a greater way...ask Him to enlarge your 'gaze.'
- Ask the Holy Spirit to open a door to initiating a spiritual conversation with someone about eternal life in Christ.



# Connect Groups

A place to get plugged in, discuss, meet new people, become friends, and grow with God.

Discussion Guide - Sunday, October 2

“Reflecting Jesus”: John 3:14-15

## OPEN

In our passage this week, Jesus tells us that looking to him for healing and salvation is the only the way to receive God's gift of eternal life. In speaking to Nicodemus, a Jewish teacher and rabbi, Jesus reveals his uniqueness as the only one who can save because he is the only one truly from heaven – the place of God's unhindered presence. And because of that, he is the only one who is able to grant us the eternal life that defines heaven. In speaking with Nicodemus, Jesus uses the picture of God telling Moses to lift up a bronze snake for the Israelites to gaze upon for healing in Numbers ch. 21 to foreshadow how Jesus through the cross would be lifted up in order to be the source of eternal life for all who believe - an interesting story!

## REFLECT

- In the passage, Jesus says he is the only one who has “gone into heaven” because he is the only one “from heaven.”
- How would you define heaven in terms of what Jesus is talking about?
- Read the story of Numbers 21. What are some of the key elements of the story that compare to the message of the Gospel, such as the snake, being bitten, and confession?
- In what ways was Jesus lifted up before people in going to the cross? In being lifted up, what were people to see about Jesus?