

GARDENS, SNAKES, AND CROSSES

Once Bitten

Sermon by Pastor Bob Marvel

Opening Prayer

Invite the group to leave behind the distractions of the day by focusing on God through a couple minutes of centering prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead your meeting and reveal the personal messages He has for each one of you.

Insights and Applications

Share an insight that the Holy Spirit gave you while reflecting on Scripture this last week. Also, share how you chose to respond and apply it to your life.

Connect With God Through Scripture:

Reflection verses: **John 3:13-17**

Use multiple translations if available (NIV, NLT, The Message, etc.)

What does the passage teach me about God?
How does the passage speak to me personally?
What does this passage call me to?

Group discussion:

Read: **Numbers 21:4-9**

- In the past, or present, how have you acted like the Israelites in verse 5?
- What are some external or internal warning signs when you are in the verse 5 mindset?
- How has God's restorative action been demonstrated in your life while you were in this mindset?
- What has it taken, or what might it take, to bring you to the surrender and repentance the Israelites demonstrated in vs. 7?
- Describe the results that come from your own experiences of verses 8 and 9?

A Call To Action:

What is God prompting you to put into practice this week as a result of this sermon and your small group discussion?

How can your small group support and encourage you this week?

Closing Prayer:

Lift each other up in prayer. We praise Jesus for being our provision. Thank you, God for your restorative action in our lives and for your grace. Your kindness leads us to repentance, and we are forever changed by your love and mercy.