**Directions for: Home Discussion 3/3 and 3/10**

With your parent/ mentor read the readings found below that will be used at the Confirmation-led 3/13 mid-week service.

Discuss together and write the answers to the questions. Email them to Pr. Jackie by Monday March 11 at 7pm. Pr. Jackie will compile them and read them during the message time. I will not identify who said which response—I will say that these are the thoughts from the Confirmation class.

**First Reading:** Numbers 21:4-9

4From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” 6Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” 9So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**Second Reading** 1 Kings 3:3-15

3Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. 4The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." 6And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. 7And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. 9Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"
10It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. 11God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. 13I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. 14If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."
15Then Solomon awoke; it had been a dream. He came to Jerusalem where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. He offered up burnt offerings and offerings of well-being, and provided a feast for all his servants.

**Faith Reflection Questions:**

1. In Numbers 21, the Israelites in the desert focused their minds on the hardship and not on the good things God did. When they looked up at the bronze serpent, God saved them from the consequences of the snake bites. There are times that I focused my mind on my troubles instead of being grateful to God. When has that happened to you? What times do you see this happening to others/ or to the world around you?
2. If you were God (good thing, we are not)—what things are happening in the world that you would become impatient about?
3. Solomon prayed to God for an understanding mind, able to discern good from evil. How can we use our minds to do good in our daily life?
4. What does loving the Lord your God with all you mind look like to you?