

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2014  
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 7

***Introduction:*** Connect with your group members' *schema*.

Ask your group members if they heard of the much-talked-about tirade from Bill Maher, a talk show host and avowed atheist, in March of this year. Allow any comments about the TV personality's statements about God in regard to an upcoming movie about Noah. Here's an excerpt:

It's about a psychotic mass murderer who gets away with it, and his name is God," said Maher, a noted atheist. "Genesis says God was so angry with himself for screwing up when he made mankind so flawed that he sent the flood to kill everyone. Everyone: Men, women, children, babies. What kind of tyrant kills everyone just to get back at the few he's mad at?"

Our country allows freedom of speech, and we learn through various media just how much God's view of right living and the consequences of sin is ridiculed and despised. Our series of lessons highlight the magnificent plan that a merciful God has orchestrated throughout history in spite of mankind's rebellion.

***Part 1: Discover the content in the text.***

Read the focal passage, Numbers 21:4-9, and look for the complaints that the people had with God and their resulting attitudes.

Next, in pairs, dig out the consequences of their sinful attitudes and their response to God's judgment and His provision of mercy. Invite the group members to contribute their answers.

***Part 2: Connect the dots.***

So how can we connect the dots from this peculiar, mysterious story in Numbers to the gospel? Jesus helped us out in this quest by making this connection for us in John 3:14-15.

List the seven statements in bold on p. 86 of the Leader Guide. Divide your group into two teams and ask them to identify the point in the narrative in Numbers that connects with each statement and then follow it with the events of Christ's crucifixion.

### **Part 3: *Consider application.***

Read 2 Cor. 5:20-21 and respond to this question: Just how seriously does God take sin?

Clarify that Jesus did NOT become a sinner but took on our sin to demonstrate His love.

### **Conclusion:**

We must be willing to face our sin and need for restoration in order to be motivated to look up to our Savior. Is there sin in your life that you have not faced?

### **Teaching Tip of the Week**

Each time you introduce a new lesson, it is important to connect with your group members. Each one brings a mental framework that consists of prior learning and experiences, including dispositions and attitudes. This is known as a person's *schema*. I once conducted a training session in Montana and developed my ideas around the concept of teamwork of a pit crew in NASCAR. After five minutes I realized that the folks in Montana don't know or care about auto racing. Clearly I failed to connect with their schema!