

## Study Aids

### Discussion Questions and Suggested Readings for “What’s the Message?” Lessons

#### Lesson 36

It will be beneficial for you to have a Biblical atlas to help you locate the various territories that are mentioned in these lessons. Opposite the Sinai Peninsula, on the east side of the Gulf of Aqaba, lies the land of Midian (in present day Saudi Arabia), where Moses had learned how to live in the desert under his father-in-law, Jethro. At approximately the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba (in present day Jordan) the territory of Edom began and continued northward to the southern edge of the Dead Sea. As you may recall, Esau Edom (Gen. 36:8) and Israel was forbidden to enter that land or to battle with the descendants of Esau. Immediately north of Edom is Moab, then the territory of the Amorites, and north of that on the east side of the Sea of Galilee is the territory of Bashan.

#### Questions:

While we didn’t have time to include the battle with the king of Arad and the Canaanites in our lesson, it is actually the first battle the Israelites fought as they entered the Promised Land. What is the significance of this battle? What is the contrast between this time (Num. 21:2) and what had happened forty years earlier (Num. 13:30-33)?

After seeing the power of the Lord at work for them, how could they fall into complaining so soon after this victory and speak against Moses (Num. 21:5)? Who were they really rejecting? Their punishment was venomous snakes that bit and killed many people. We have pointed out the parallelism between the bronze serpent that Moses erected and the crucifixion of Jesus. Are you beginning to see more parallels between the Old and the New Testaments, and how these stories still apply to us today?

What is the significance of the battles against Sihon and Og? Were these “training” for the challenges ahead?