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| <p><b>Theme &amp; Passages</b></p>   | <p>For God so loved the world<br/><b>John 3:14-21; Ephesians 2:4-10; Numbers 21:4-9</b></p>   | <p>Notes prepared by<br/>Caroline Oliveira</p> |
| <p><b>Welcome (10 mins)</b></p>  | <p>One of the stories we are looking at today meets the Israelites in the desert, complaining about the food and being bitten by snakes. What would be your number one survival skill if you were camped out in the desert?</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Worship (20 mins)</b></p>  | <p>*Leaders note: This week the worship time may be better fitted as a response to the Word section. Feel free to decide where to best place it in your meeting.</p> <p><b>Read</b> Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22. Either use the time to <b>share very brief testimonies</b> of God's saving work in your lives and your personal experiences of grace <u>OR</u> use one of the following <b>songs</b> to reflect or sing out praises to God:<br/> <u>Confitemini domino</u> Taizé (this is Latin for 'praise the Lord')<br/> <u>Once again</u> (Matt Redman) <u>Amazing Grace</u> (Chris Tomlin)</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Working with God (20 mins):</b><br/>Evangelism<br/>Discipleship<br/>Compassion<br/>Justice<br/>Creation<br/>Care</p> | <p>One of the marks of mission is evangelism, which literally means the 'proclamation of the good news' of the gospel. Easter is always an important time for churches to proclaim the good news of salvation.</p> <p>Take some time to <b>pray</b> for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Our Easter events (Easter weekend services, joint ecumenical services and our childrens and families events) – pray for those attending and those leading.</li> <li>○ Our international partner churches in Brazil, Slovenia, Siberia, and Beirut as they share the gospel in word and action this Easter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discuss</b> who you would like to have the chance to share the good news of Jesus with. Make a note of those individuals, pray for them, and see if there is an opportunity to have a spiritual conversation with them in the coming weeks. Let your group know how you get on!</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Word (20-25 mins)</b></p>  | <p><b>Read John 3:14-18</b> To give some context to Jesus' reference to the serpent being lifted up in John 3:14, <b>read Numbers 21:4-9.</b></p> <p><b>Discuss:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What connections did Caroline make between these two passages in her sermon? Was there anything in particular that struck you from the talk?</li> <li>○ How does the passage in John impact the way you live your life or your perspective on death and dying?</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Revelation 2:2-5.</b> The Ephesian church are commended for their obedience and faithfulness, but are called to repent for their hearts growing cold. It isn't uncommon to lose some of our sense of wonder and passion for Jesus over time.<br/> <b>Ask</b> who feels this applies to them at present. <b>Pray</b> as a group or in twos and threes, that your passion may be renewed and heart reawakened to the riches we have received in Jesus.</p> |  |