

Small Group Material

Seeing things differently: Light and Truth

A Different Perspective

Welcome (10 mins)

What is the most reckless thing you have ever done?

Worship (10 mins) Reckless Love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE>

Read Psalm 139: 1-12 and pray in response.

Word (30 mins) John 3: 14 - 21

(v. 14) In Numbers 21: 8 – 9 the people are saved from God's judgement by looking up at the bronze snake.

- Why does Jesus refer to this? How is the incident in Numbers similar to Jesus's sacrifice for us on the cross, and how is it different?

(v. 16) C. S Lewis said, "To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken."

- Given that God *knows* the world, how does this make God's love for the world even more incredible? Are there times when you've been particularly aware of the enormity of God's love?
- Tricky questions: What does it mean to "believe" in Jesus? What are some other words that could be used to describe this type of believing? And what do we mean by "eternal life"? Does it mean more than living forever?
- (v. 17) Quick question: What does God want for the world?

- (v. 18) Do you find this verse hard or easy? Discuss any thoughts and feelings that this verse brings up.
- (v.19 - 20) What does the darkness represent? Why do people love the darkness?
- (v. 20 – 21) How do you feel about God knowing everything about you? (Luke 12:7) Worried? Ashamed? Glad that someone understands you? Something else?
- Why did God have to go to such great lengths to deal with our sin? (1 John 1: 5 - 6)
- (v. 21) Do you feel that you can step into God's light with confidence? What factors (past experiences, past actions, tendencies) influence your answer to this?
- We're called to walk in the light and yet we're prone to sin and error. What should we do about this? And what does God do? (see 1 John 1: 8-10)

Optional extra question: How has your experience and awareness of God's love for you changed over time?

Witness (20 mins) One-to-One to Easter

Has anyone had any contact with any who they've been praying for?

Is there some way you can reach out to one of those you've been praying for? Try some little initiative that is appropriate in terms of your friendship. Could you invite them to join you for a walk? Or suggest an on-line coffee or drink? Or send a little video to them on WhatsApp? It doesn't need to be spiritual - but it could be! Or drop a

little treat on their doorstep - one of the Wellbeing packs? What other ideas do people have?

Share and pray as a group.

Keep praying during the week...

One-to-One to Easter

In case you missed it, here is the Witness section for: -

Week 1

Jesus said, 'When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.' Jn 12.32

As we approach Easter, let us pray that God will draw people to himself over this season. In prayer, ask God to lay on your heart 3 people to particularly pray for during this time. You could put their names in the Zoom chat.

Maybe, one person could pray for the members of the group, to be in some way, a 'Secret Pastor' for these people.

Week 2

Have you had any contact with the people you prayed for last week?
Have you, in some way, been able to be a 'Secret Pastor' to them?
Keep praying over the coming week for opportunities in both life and words.

With Easter approaching, we have the opportunity to connect with our relatives, friends, and neighbours with something more than the two-minute dashed-off e-mail. There are Easter cards and longer letters

enabling us to re-connect with perhaps a meaningful Scripture verse. We can then 'pray it home', 'wing it to the heart' and look for opportunities to follow up. You might like to pray now for those for whom you have a particular concern.