



## Heartbeat and Hunger

### Welcome (10 mins)

What is the biggest risk you have ever taken? What was the outcome?  
What did you learn? How did it make you feel - before and after?

### Worship (20 mins)

Use Scripture to help focus on God, his nature and his purposes. Read Isaiah 62 - split the chapter up into 4 parts with people reading 3 verses each. Read it slowly, perhaps play some background music, and ask people to see what God says to them - what jumps out from the passage? Verse 10 may be useful as a focus: Isa 62.10 - 'Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations.' Speak out prayers of thanks and worship and declaration to God - for who He is, His touch on our lives and the new name He has given us! (verses 4 and 12)

### Word (40 mins)

Imagine the scene - Lazarus a friend and brother lies dead in a cave after a period of sickness. Jesus hears about it and eventually turns up on the scene after a few days only to be welcomed by a disappointed, frustrated, cynical and grieving crowd. Then Jesus gets the stone to be taken away and tells Lazarus to come out. Suddenly out strolls this grave-clothed man...who has been dead for 4 days - but here he is walking again! The crowd rush to take the grave clothes off and yes, it really is Lazarus - it's not a magic trick - he has come back to life!

How do you think Lazarus felt? What thoughts and emotions would have gone through his mind/soul?

How would Martha have felt - after hassling Jesus, after her utter grief?

How would Jesus have felt?

If there was one thing that you could change in your life in the next month that is currently a hindrance, what would it be? (i.e. What stones do you feel need removing in your own life: mindsets, fears, sin, apathy...) Encourage the cell to share openly and vulnerably.

How do you feel about taking risks? Does it come naturally? Does it depend on how you feel? What is the next step for you to trust God, what risk do you need to take? It could be to do with a job, house, money, learning a language, confessing something, telling someone more about Jesus, believing a promise God has made...

Cell Plan



What do the grave clothes represent for you? What is your 'disguise' from your old way of life that holds you back?

When and where are you most aware of God's presence and his voice...is there a separation between cell/church type places and when you're in your car/office/walking down the street? God is with us wherever we go and we take his presence everywhere. Identify any inconsistency between when/where you expect to meet with God. God is beyond any box! He is in all of life.

Pray together and for each other.

### **Witness (20 mins)**

What stones are there between your friends / community and a life-giving encounter with Jesus? What risks do you feel you could take? Pray for these stones to be removed and for people to encounter Jesus.

### **Notes**

Synopsis: As God's people we are called to connect the heartbeat of God to the hunger of people. This is our role of reconciliation. We need to have a hunger for God's heartbeat and a heart for those who are 'hungry', who are seeking Jesus.

Scripture gives us keys to help us in this process. The story of Jesus bringing Lazarus back from the dead in John 11 is our focus here (v1-7, 17, 32-45)

**Remove** the stone - there are stones that need to be removed before other things will come alive. Blockages, mindsets, sin.

**Risk** the bad odour - Jesus' followers wanted to see new life but complained about the smell that would be there - that's inconsistent! If you want new life to come you have to risk the bad odour.

**Revive** the body - As the stones were removed and the risks taken, revival of the body began. Even when Lazarus came alive he still had the grave clothes on. Need to take off the clothes of death and be vulnerable.

**Release** into life - 'Let him loose' Jesus shouted! The Church venturing out from death to life; from darkness to light; from stationary to mobility; from disguise to revelation; from inaccessible to being tangible; from the cave to creation; from raw hope to reality. Movement begins!! Seeds that have been sown that are coming to life.

# Cell Plan