

## Warm Up

Have you ever said “*It wasn’t like that in my day!*” What was so wrong in the world that you thought life was better before? Is it true that life was better in times gone by? Why do we sometimes think that?

## Background and context

In the first passage of scripture today, the Hebrews are grumbling. They are in the wilderness, with limited food choices, restricted water and constantly on the move. Instead of trusting the Lord who miraculously rescued them, they look back at life as slaves and see it as better than freedom and life! This has serious consequences. God dramatically shows them their need to look up to Him and find safety and life. Jesus echoes this story in our second passage, reminding us that if we live in darkness and fail to look up to Him we will never find light and life!

## Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



**READ Numbers 21:4-9.** What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don’t you really understand?

1. How would you describe the Hebrews’ choice to grumble against God, in the light of all He had done to rescue them?
2. Are we any better than the Hebrews? Do we, in our daily lives grumble against God? What are our grumbles?
3. Is grumbling the same as questioning? Is it okay to question God’s plans?
4. In the story, what was the consequence of the Hebrews failure to trust God? Was God harsh? How does God show both His wrath and mercy?

**Read John 3:14-21.**

5. What are the two choices Jesus gives in this passage? (v18,19-20) What are the different outcomes? Whose responsibility is it if we make the wrong choice? Is it fair?
6. As a Christian, choosing Jesus seems logical. Why do so many people choose to reject Him?
7. Why does living in spiritual darkness appeal to so many people?
8. Why is living *in the light* so challenging?

## Discipleship and Application



9. As people who have looked up to Jesus on the cross and now live in the light, how can we encourage others to do the same?



**Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.**

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.