**Small Group notes – 28 Feb 2021**

**Welcome**

Which of health, wealth and happiness do you value the most and why?
To what extent are they interdependent?

**Word: The life of Job –** The mystery of suffering and the sovereignty of God - The response to suffering.

Suffering will have touched each one of us. It may not directly be our own suffering but a family member, friend, work colleague or neighbour. Suffering is all around us and we witness it on a regular basis even if it is only seen when watching the news on TV.

**Read Job 1:5**

What are Job’s personal circumstances like? What is his character like?

**Read Job 1:6-22**

What is Satan’s accusation against Job? How does God respond?

What do we learn about God and Satan in these verses?

What does Satan cause to happen to Job?
What different events does Satan use to bring suffering to Job?

How does Job respond?

**Read Job 2**

Why does God allow Satan to inflict further suffering upon Job?

Put yourself in the place of Job’s wife. How does it feel?

How does Job respond?

How did Job’s friends initially act towards Job?

What are the various responses to suffering in these chapters?

**Read Job 3:1-26**What does Job say to his friends about his suffering?
How does this compare with what Satan predicted? How does Job feel that God is treating him?
Can suffering change a person’s view of God and life? How?

*As we wrestle with the topic of suffering in the Book of Job, I encourage you to respond to suffering in your own life in three ways.*

**BE HONEST**

**In our thinking** – We don’t really understand suffering and God’s sovereignty so let’s not try to pretend we do.

**Our emotions** –It is painful, it is not wanted or appreciated. Let the tears roll, don’t hold it in, speak and pray out to the Lord and to trusted friends.

**BE GRATEFUL**

For the many blessings God has given you. When we go through suffering we often say; Why me Lord? How about when we go through good times, do we say the same thing? Why me Lord? Why are you blessing me? Why are you so good to me?

**BE HOPEFUL**

We know the end of the story, Job didn’t.

It’s the same with us. We might not know all the details in-between but we know the end of our own story. We know that Jesus has made a way for us through his death, through his suffering that we might be with him forever.

**Worship**

Spend time giving thanks to God for his many blessings.

**Prayer**

Spend time sharing and then pray for each other. Pray for any local, national or international situations that have touched your heart in recent days.

**Reminders**

Prayer meeting – 28 Feb @ 8pm

Coffee & chat – Mon 1 March @ 11am

Prayer meeting – Wed 3 March @ 7.30am

Reflection – Thurs 4 March @ 12.30pm

Members meeting – Wed 10 March @8pm