**Small Group notes – 21 March 2021**

**Welcome**

In using a sentence to answer from each person in the group, share what you have enjoyed and struggled with in Lockdown? What are you looking forward to doing when we come out of lockdown? What are you not looking forward to?

**Word – The revelation in suffering – Job 42**

Job discovered a number of things in the midst of his suffering and the trials and challenges that followed. Job discovered:

* **God is all powerful and there is nothing he cannot do. 42:2-5**
* **He is not as holy, blameless, and wise as he thought. 42v3 & v5-6**
* **The power of repentance, prayer and forgiveness. 42:7-9**
* **That after repentance and forgiveness comes blessing. 42:10-17**

**Questions**

* What does Job repent of?
* What is God’s opinion of Job’s friends? What did God command them to do? why?
* What did God ask Job to do for his friends? Why was this important?
* In what way do you think Job was a different man by the end of the story?
* What words would you use to describe Job’s spiritual journey?
* How did you find the ending?
* What have you discovered from our study of the book of Job?

Final thoughts…. The book of Job reminds me of the importance of staying close to God and trusting him, even when bad things happen. Staying close to God is more valuable than not suffering. Staying close to God is more valuable than having all the answers to life’s mysteries. I believe that ultimately suffering is a part of Gods plan. He knows more about suffering than any of us. However, I also believe he will not allow suffering to continue forever. We have hope because we know the end of the story. Rev 21:1-4.

**The Weaver**

My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me.

I cannot choose the colors
He weaveth steadily.

Oft’ times He weaveth sorrow;
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not ’til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver’s skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned

He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.

‘Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God’ Corrie Ten Boom

**Reminders**

Sun 21 March @ 8pm – Prayer

Mon 22 March @ 11am – coffee & chat

Wed 24 March @7.30am – Prayer

Thurs 25 March @ 12.30pm – Reflection

**Future dates**

01 April – Maundy Thursday reflection @ 12.30pm - Zoom only

02 April – Good Friday reflection @ 12.30pm - Zoom only

**Zoom & NMBC Premises**

04 April Easter Sunday Baptism 10.30am

11 April Testimonies 10.30am

18 April New Sermon Series ‘Singing in Babylon’ 10.30am

25 April New Sermon Series

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Sunday morning services will resume in the church building with a maximum of 40 attendees with a booking system in place (as with the autumn reflections).  We will be adhering to Covid secure regulations, wearing face masks, social distancing, no singing, no refreshments and no socialising afterwards. If you would like to book any future Sunday morning services in April, please telephone or email the church office in the week prior to the service to book your place (max 40 places).