**Smallgroup Questions                                                                   Week commencing 23 May**

**First Responders : Daniel responds rather than reacts**

**Daniel 2 v 1-18**

* **Keep near to the pause button​.**
* **Keep near to each other​.**
* **Keep near to God.**

**Keep near to the pause button​.**

Explain times when we have spoken in haste and repented at leisure…

What is the question Daniel asks that persuades the King to pause – Daniel 2 v 15?

What other diplomatic questions/comments might we employ in defusing tense situations?

Lets remind ourselves of James’ practical advice - James 1 v 19, James 3 v 3-10

Ecclesiastes5 v 2 and Proverbs 29 20 follow the same theme.

Share examples where pausing has produced beneficial responses.

How might we train ourselves and those close to us to apply our pause buttons?

**Keep near to each other.**

From Romans 12 v 4 and 5 what are the practical responsibilities of ‘belonging’? – as individual parts of NMBC, as NMBC being part of the UK church and the worldwide church.

Read 1 Co 12 v12-21

Bonhoeffer said “The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer”-  If we believe in the mantra ‘ stronger together’ how can we encourage greater participation in praying for each other and learning from each other? Please feedback answers to the leadership – if you don’t think the current prayer meetings and small groups are working don’t be afraid to say so!

Keep near to God.

Re read pages 114-115 of Singing in Babylon

Do we empathise with Jeff Lucas when he says we often seem to pray to a God who is ‘out there’.?

Let’s remind ourselves of the following verses:

John 14 v 23

John 16 v 7

Matthew 28 v 19-20

Acts 17 - 24-28

Although we cannot see him, does the fact that God is so close to us change the way we want to pray?

**The astrologers’ gods do not live among humans (Daniel 2 v 11) . The God of heaven is very much entwined with matters on earth (Singing in Babylon p 116)**

**Take time to praise our God who lives with us and pray for each other that we would have greater confidence in prayer.**