Sunday 10th November – Connect Group Notes

## Everything doesn’t happen for a reason

Read Romans 8: 18-30

1. Thinking about everyday life do you tend to ask questions and if so why? Do you expect there to be straightforward explanations for everything that happens?
2. How do you feel with the idea that there may not always be reasons for what happens?
3. The following are different translations of our key verse (Rom 8: 28). Do the differences matter when we come to apply the verse?

*‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose.’ (New International Version, used in the sermon)*

*‘And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. (King James Version)*

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose for them.’ (New Living Translation)*

1. What was similar about the view that the disciples had of the blind man and that Job’s friends had of his situation? Why were they wrong?
2. What have been the consequences of human beings’ disobedience of God? (vv19-25, also Genesis 3 & Romans 1)
3. Thinking of the different persons of the Trinity what help is available for us when we struggle to find answers? (vv26, 27)
4. All religions have difficulty dealing with the idea of suffering? How does being a Christian provide a distinctive perspective to our thinking?
5. How would you help someone suffering loss of a loved one, or facing terminal illness, in a sensitive way avoiding platitudes?
6. If you were to imagine your spiritual journey as a timeline what would be the significant events? Where can you now see God’s hand at work in a way you couldn’t at the time? If possible it might help to use drawing as words sometimes get in the way. Share with others if you feel able to.