

# THE BELOVED COMMUNITY... MYSTERY – 3 JUNE 2018

(Seven Questions HMC study for the week of 28<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018)

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ICE BREAKER: What do you think in a beloved community?

FOCUS SCRIPTURE PASSAGE/S: READ JOB 38:1 – 42:6; Romans 14

1. How do you picture God? How do you feel/react about other people's picture of God when they express this, especially when they're emphatic about this picture and view it as the absolute and only truth?
2. In our faith journey we've never fully arrived – there's always something else to learn about God, a new understanding to discover which gives way to a deepening mystery. Share a time when you discovered a new way of thinking from Scripture.
3. One way in which we are a Beloved Community is through slow, careful and considered care within the world. In what ways can we embrace this approach in the church and in our interactions with others?
4. Job is a book most of us are familiar with... The thinking of the day is that bad things happen to bad people. Satan argues with God that Job will change his attitude to God if the blessings in his life are removed. And so begins Job's very human work of trying to make sense of all that happens. The last chapters of Job, also known as the Divine Speeches turn Job's attention to the beauty and majesty of creation. Job is asked, "do you understand how any of this happens?" Of course he doesn't! Our view of God is one part of that view. One thing we do know for certain is that Jesus is Saviour. In your reading of Scripture do your questions motivate you to explore deeper? Are you a "The Bible says it, I believe it, that settles it." Kind of person or do you embrace the notion of "think and let think"?
5. In your thinking and questioning do you ever ask the question – "Would Jesus say 'Amen' to this?" Is it an expression of love? How open are you to the mystery of God?
6. Rabbi Sacks quotes the great Jewish thinker, Maimonides: "Accept the truth, whoever says it." Speaking truth can be a very healing thing. How can you be and agent of healing as you respond to the mystery of God calling you forward in your ignorance to a new revelation of God?
7. In Romans 14, Paul gives us a picture what the Beloved Community could look like. Look at verses 17-19 what does this say about being in community, caring for one another and glorifying God?

*NOTE: Prayers for SA & the World are posted on the website. Please encourage your group to pray together about these issues and during their personal devotional time in the week.*