**Questions for small groups**

Read Psalm 13; Isa.55:9; 1 Cor. 13:12; Gen. 50:20; Rom. 5:3-5; Heb. 5:8.

* What is your reaction to Stephen Fry’s tirade against God?
* If you could ask God only one question and you knew he would give you an answer, what would you ask? What questions have your non-Christian friends/family asked you recently?
* Do you feel that to say “We don’t have all the answers to the problem of suffering” is a cop out?
* Do you think that Epicurus’ famous statement (below) is a helpful summary of the problem of suffering?

*“Either God wants to abolish evil, and cannot; or he can, but does not want to; or he cannot and does not want to. If he wants to, but cannot, he is impotent. If he can, and does not want to, he is wicked. But, if God both can and wants to abolish evil, then how come evil is in the world?”*

* Hearing about the latest ‘natural’ disaster, what emotions are aroused in you? Which way might there be human responsibility associated with some ‘natural’ disasters? (What point did Steve make on quoting the article “Earthquakes don’t kill people, buildings do”?)
* How might suffering caused through ‘natural’ disasters be essentially due to economics?
* Read Rom. 8:22. What is the future of our groaning planet?
* When reflecting upon suffering, why is it so important to take a longer term perspective? (see Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17).