

<b>Theme &amp; Passages</b>	<b>CONFIDENT DISCIPLESHIP:</b> <b>I AM CONVINCED.....</b> <b>Romans 8 v 38 to 39</b>	Notes prepared by Neil Casey
<b>Welcome (10 mins)</b>	Imagine that you are having a face to face conversation with God, and you have the opportunity to ask Him a question that has troubled you for a while. For instance you may have wondered why God created wasps, as they seem to have no other purpose than being irritating when you are eating outdoors. Remember - this section of the small group notes is designed to be light - so dissuade people from asking big existential questions such as - why suffering!	
<b>Worship (20 mins)</b>	<b>Read:</b> Psalm 139 verses 13 to 18 Lectio Divina style with each member of the group taking a verse. Pause once you get to the end of the passage and reflect on how deep the Father's love is for us. <b>Watch:</b> "How deep the Father's love for us" and allow the words to wash over you - <a href="#">How deep the Father's love for us</a> Take some time to pray out prayers of thankfulness	
<b>Working with God (20 mins):</b> Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care	This week we take some time to listen to <a href="#">Pete Thomson (20.05)</a> and <a href="#">Dawn Collin (28.28)</a> as they share their stories prior to being baptised. As we listen to their stories we hear real life examples of evangelism and discipleship; two of the five marks of mission, on their respective journeys to baptism.  Do you notice the importance of caring friends who have walked with on their journey of faith? Take a moment to call to mind those who you are walking with on their journey of faith. It may be someone who is yet to encounter God for themselves.  Both Pete and Dawn mention times when God spoke to them and these being times when God was giving them a nudge forward. How might God be using you to help those you are walking with to take the next step of faith? Take some time this week to bring them before God in prayer, asking Him what He is asking of you, and then act on what He says.	
<b>Word (20-25 mins)</b>	<b>Read Romans 8 v 38 to 39</b>  These verses are Paul proclaiming that he is convinced of God's supremacy and love. It is a strong declaration of faith.  Neil referred to some evidence which He feels provides convincing proof that God exists. What evidence do you point to that provides you with convincing proof of the existence of God?  Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote these words in his poem entitled God's Grandeur: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil Crushed" How would you explain to someone else that Creation itself points towards their being a Creator?	

	<p>Neil described the bible as being "primary source" material, particularly referring to The Gospels. What do you think he meant by that and why?</p> <p>David Baddiel, the author and comedian has said "We are hard wired to worship". Neil explained this as being the purpose for which we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" Is he right?</p> <p>Neil encouraged those present not to ignore the God-designed inner pull in all of us to get to know God by getting to know Jesus. He cited Dawn and Pete as people who had chosen not to ignore that pull and had taken the next step in their journey of faith. Ask the group to take some time to reflect, and then to share what they think is their next step. Take some time to pray for one another, asking God to help them make that next step.</p>
<p><b>Following Through</b></p>	<p>For this series we are drawing upon some resources provided by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICCC) These include the 40 days of devotional readings which you can access via the <b>"You Version"</b> Bible App and searching for the reading plan "Confidence Devotional Journey"</p> <p>Alternatively you can arrange for LICCC to send you a devotion each day by email, by clicking <a href="#">HERE</a></p>