

KNOW WHO YOU ARE

Discussion Notes

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For the next few months it is really important that we strike a balance between how much we talk about coronavirus and how much we try to do Hub life as normal. For some people, Hub will be a rare chance to process things in a Christian space. For others, they'll be desperate to talk about anything else! So, it might be a good idea to start with a space for people to reflect on how they are doing and then draw a line under it. Coronavirus will inevitably come up over and over, but it doesn't have to dominate the conversation.

- How are you holding up?
- Any big developments we can chat/pray about? Any changes in work etc.?
- Is anyone really struggling?
- What are the opportunities in this time? Where can we see the hope of Christ break into our lives? What can we do to bring hope?

A big question we need to ask ourselves is 'what does God think about me?' The answer we give to this question will tell us a lot about whether we 'know who we are'.

- For some, they think God is **far off**. He is disinterested and just leaves us to get on with it. Do you ever feel like that?
- Others think that God is **frightening**. He is the policeman in the sky who is harsh and condemning. Do you feel like this?
- What impact does these ways of thinking about God have on us?

Read Romans 8:1-17 together.

- What stands out from this passage?
- Is there anything that you haven't spotted before?
- Is there anything that feels particularly pertinent to this moment?

Philip explained the significance of the word 'Abba' and the significant change that is from the word Israelites had used for God before that, YHWH. Yahweh was a word that inspired a sense of awe and wonder, God was so holy that we couldn't even say his name! Yet now, Jesus says God is Abba; an intimate word Aramaic children used for Daddy.

- What difference would it make to our lives if we really understood what it means that God is 'Abba'?
- What stops us from understanding God as our father?
- What does Paul mean when he says we are 'heirs'?

Read Romans 8:18-39 and reflect on this passage together.

- What can we take from this passage into the rest of our week?

The passage tells us that the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

- What is our weakness that we need the Spirit's help in at the moment?
- How does knowing who we are help us in this area?

Finish by praying for each other that we would be filled with the Spirit. You may want to break down into smaller groups to do this, or pray and just wait in the silence for a while.