



## Small group discussion questions June 2016

### Chapter & verse – Rosalind Selby (page 18)

Read Luke 8:26-39 followed by Rosalind Selby’s article.

1. What part of the Bible do you find a tough text? What makes it a hard read for you?
2. Rosalind says in paragraph two of “Chapter & verse”: “Don’t read the description of this man’s life and plight too quickly; sit with it and allow the reality to touch you. (Mark 5:1-20 is an even more vivid description.)” Read in Mark 5:2-5. What do you imagine this man’s experience of life was like?
3. In paragraph three, Rosalind points out ways in which the man is excluded. How different do you think this man’s experience would be in our society? What leads to people being excluded today?
4. In paragraph four, Rosalind reflects on the fact that the man cannot or will not name himself. What is so important about a name?
5. Rosalind says, in paragraph five: “We don’t find mental ill-health easy to talk about.” Why do you think that is? Do you have any experience of mental ill health that you feel able to talk about?
6. Rosalind mentions in paragraph seven that Jesus “makes the journey... to meet the man in his agony”. What difference does this make and what can we learn from it about our own dealings with each other?
7. What can churches do to be more helpful to people experiencing mental ill health?

For further reflection: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.” Isaiah 43:1-2

CHAPTER 6 VERSE

## Rosalind Selby Chapter & verse

"Here is an insight into the reality of the pain of mental ill health"



... [what the patients, 'What is your name?' he said, 'Laguna'. For many decades had...]

... [I thought was in the Gospel...]

... [This is a hard read, my right, but...]

... [The next poem looks so poignant...]

... [I am a child of God - God created and...]

... [As a writer, we don't know if...]

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Prayer: Jesus, who comes to us where we are, in our weakness and our troubles, raise us up, we pray. We pray for those we know who are suffering, that they will be made well. And for ourselves we pray that we will have wisdom, patience, kindness and courage in our dealings with one another. Amen.