**‘STEPPING STONES TOWARDS SPIRITUAL GROWTH’**

**WEEK 6 – ‘Life-grating relationships’ – week beginning 19 August**

Bible readings: 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:1

‘Our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become more like Him” 2 Cor 3:18 (The Message)

* Watch PREVIEW CLIP together
* Can you identify a time when someone has made life difficult for you, frustrated you, rubbed you the wrong way or pushed your buttons? What was your response at the time?
* Looking back on that experience, how do you think God might have been wanting to work in and through that experience?
* What did God teach you about yourself – your character, your heart attitudes, your reactions and responses – through that experience?
* These verses in 2 Corinthians 5 speak of the importance of being reconciled not only with God but with others as God is at work in us. How do you think the state of our relationships with others is connected to the state of our relationship with God?
* We all can have ‘rough edges’ in our character, heart attitudes and lives that need shaping and polishing by God to reflect more of Jesus in our lives. Take some time to individually reflect on and write down what ‘rough edges’ might be there in your life.
* How do you think a ‘difficult’ person in our lives can be used by God as a stepping stone towards our spiritual growth?