

- 5     *2 Kings 17*  
How did you answer the question posed in the notes -  
‘In what Assyrias and Egypts do we put *our* trust’?  
Given the complexity and demands of everyday living,  
how do *we* manage to stay faithful to the one true God?
- 6     *2 Kings 22-23*  
Josiah’s reforms in his 31-year reign were a spiritual high-  
point of Judah’s latter years. Yet his successor undid it all in  
just three months! Have you ever found that your well-being  
and stability built-up over many years suddenly seemed to  
fall apart? What helped to sustain you at such times?
- 7     *Psalm 53*  
What do you say to those who are adamant there is no God?
- 8     *Jude*  
‘How easy it is for the radical gospel proclaimed by (and in  
the name of) Jesus to become tainted by teachings easier on  
our moral constitution, and less invasive on our lifestyles.’  
Are there ways in which this has been true for you, in terms  
of personal lifestyle choices, such as justifying larger houses,  
smarter cars and more advanced, electronic gadgets?
- 9     *Jude*  
Have someone read aloud the doxology at the end of this  
letter (vv.24-25). Do these words help to put into perspective  
any personal difficulties you may be struggling with?
- 10    *Psalm 56*  
Are you comforted to know that God lists all our tears on a  
special scroll (v.8)?

### **Closing**

*Reflect quietly on the discussion, then close with the Lord’s Prayer.*

# SACRED

## Group Resources

### Month 15

## Opening Prayer

Most loving God,  
give me a steadfast heart,  
which no unworthy thought can drag downwards;  
an unconquered heart, which no hardship can wear out;  
an upright heart, which no worthless purpose can ensnare.

Give me also, O Lord my God,  
understanding to know you,  
diligence to seek you,  
and a faithfulness that will finally embrace you;  
through Jesus Christ, my Lord.  
Amen.

*(St. Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274)*

## General Questions

- 1 How have you found reading through the second volume of *Kings* compared with the first?
- 2 Has God spoken to you in any particular way through all that you've read this month

## Activity

Try to obtain a colouring page depicting a tranquil landscape or scene from the natural world. Ensure that there is one for every member of the group, together with an ample supply of crayons. Then allow an extended time (say 15-20 minutes) for people to colour in the picture, while reflecting on *verses 4-8* from *Psalms 55*.

Ask the group whether they find this (a) therapeutic, and (b) able to offer insights into the words of scripture from the Psalm.

## Further Ideas

*As usual, the intention is not necessarily to work through all of these, just to take on some of them as the group chooses.*

- 1 *2 Kings 1,3*  
Both Elijah and Elisha are faced with requests to give God's counsel on important matters. They do so with such certainty. How are they so sure?  
Has the church lost confidence in proclaiming God's word?  
  
How about us when we are faced with big decisions?  
How do we become more 'certain' of God's will?
- 2 *2 Kings 4,5*  
Following on from this how confident do you feel in praying for the seemingly impossible – for an illness to be cured, or fortunes to be reversed? What would help you grow in this?
- 3 *2 Kings 6*  
Consider the details of the axe-head (vv.5-7) and the market price of a donkey's head (v.25). We've also read 'everyday' details that enhance other stories in *2 Kings* – for example, the youths' insult to Elisha (ch.2), and the Shunammite woman's son sneezing seven times (ch.4).  
  
Given that this is all God's word, can we conclude that he really is interested in the small details of our own lives?
- 4 *2 Kings 10*  
The ministers of Baal were brutally butchered. Presumably, we would not wish to condone their treatment, but do we actually do anything to combat those who today are in direct opposition to God? For example, those involved in occult practices, those who lead oppressive regimes, or those who sanction torture and other human rights violations?