

- 6 *Isaiah 53*  
Does Isaiah's extensive description of the suffering servant impact on how you respond to all that Jesus did on the cross for the whole of humanity ... and for you?  
Are there any aspects of the description that are especially (a) challenging and (b) comforting for you personally?
- 7 *Isaiah 57*  
"Behind your doors and your doorposts you have put your pagan symbols" (v.8). Have you ever had superstitious or ritualistic tendencies? Are they harmless, or did they have a kind of 'power' over you? How did you break free of them?
- 8 *Isaiah 60*  
Can you imagine what it would be like if the light of God so overwhelmed our churches that everyone felt compelled to come and see? How would your church need to change for this to happen, both before and after?
- 9 *Isaiah 64*  
Waiting. The people would have to wait hundreds of years (well beyond their own lifetimes) for God to act?  
How can we cultivate the fruit of patience, even over a much smaller time horizon.
- 10 *Psalms 95*  
The psalm is a corporate call to worship. Is it important that all the congregations at a church join together sometimes for corporate prayer and worship, regardless of their preferences for its style or form?  
How could this work practically in your church?

### **Closing**

*Be still for a while, silently reflecting on the discussion you've had.  
End with the Gaelic blessing from the notes to chapter 49.*

# SACRED

## Group Resources

## Month 26

## Opening Prayer

Lord, whose way is perfect,  
help me always to trust in your goodness,  
that walking with you  
and following you in all simplicity,  
I may possess a quiet and contented mind  
and may cast all care on you,  
for you care for me.  
Amen

*(Christina Rossetti, 1830-94)*

## Review of Volume 4

- 1 You've now completed the fourth volume of SACRED. Congratulations!  
Which book(s) have been your favourites amongst those you've read over the last seven months?
- 2 Two important themes that have been a recurrent feature of this volume are 'Prophecy' and 'Fulfilment'.  
As a group, spend some time thinking of some specific ways in which the Old Testament prophecies that you've read in Volume 4 have found their fulfilment in the New Testament books you've read.  
  
Do you find that this reinforces your faith?

## General Questions

- 1 How did you find reading the second part of *Isaiah* (chapters 40-66) compared with the first part?
- 2 Did God speak to you in any particular way as you were studying this month's readings?

## Further Ideas

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

- 1 *Isaiah 43*  
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine ..." (v.1).  
Why does God go to all the trouble of redeeming his people?  
Why does he want to 'save' you?  
Do you believe he does want to save you?
- 2 *Isaiah 40, 42, 46*  
"Comfort, comfort my people ..." (40:1)  
"A bruised reed he will not break ..." (42:3)  
"I have made you and I will carry you ..." (46:4)  
  
These verses speak of God's personal care and concern. Are they words of comfort to you in times of adversity? When you've felt like a "smouldering wick" (42:3), your faith only barely staying alive, how did you keep going? Did you sense that God was still there?
- 3 *Isaiah 45*  
God used Cyrus to accomplish his purposes, calling him "his anointed" (v.1). Should this caution us not to be too quick to make judgments about people of other faiths?  
Is there *anything* other religions can teach us as Christians?
- 4 *Isaiah 52*  
"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news" (v.7).  
Are mission and evangelism a joy, or a chore?
- 5 *Isaiah 52-53*  
Why did God's Son have to come as a 'suffering servant'?