

- 6 *Deuteronomy 32*  
In Moses' long (swan) song, what titles are given to God, and what adjectives are used to describe him?  
Choose one of these titles or adjectives, and reflect on it for a while. Then share with the group why you picked that title.
- 7 *Psalms 103*  
The psalm contains some beautiful pictures of the extent of God's forgiveness – for instance, “as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us” (v.12). It's a topic we return to frequently.  
Do you feel forgiven (a) by God, (b) others, (c) by yourself?
- 8 *Philippians 1,3*  
Christ is clearly ‘everything’ to Paul (1:18-21; 3:7-8).  
Re-read these verses. How far would you say you were on the journey to being able to echo Paul's perspective here?
- 9 *Philippians 2*  
Paul encourages us to imitate Christ's humility (vv.1-11).  
What is an appropriate Christian view of ‘self’?  
Are we really meant to consider ourselves “nothing” (v.7) when we are God's beloved children, made in his image?
- 10 *Psalms 106*  
Read again Donald Coggan's insights on the ‘wasting dis-ease’ (see v.15) effecting our contemporary society.  
Do you agree with him?  
And are there ways in which it applies even within our own churches?

### **Closing**

*Light a candle, and silently reflect on the discussion you've had, praying for God's help in addressing any specific matters that have arisen for you personally. End by saying the Lord's Prayer.*

# SACRED

## Group Resources

## Month 28

## Opening Prayer

As the sun rises, Lord, let your light shine on me.  
Destroy the darkness about me, scatter the darkness before me,  
disperse the darkness behind me, dispel the darkness within me.  
Let your light shine on me.

As the sun rises, Lord, let your light shine on me;  
the warmth of your presence, the brightness of your love,  
the radiance of your joy, the shining of your hope.  
Let your light shine on me.

As the sun rises, Lord, let your light shine on me;  
your light to guide, your light to lead,  
your light to direct, your light to brighten.  
Let your light shine on me.

(David Adam)

## General Question

- 1 By completing your study of *Deuteronomy* you've now read all five Old Testament Books of the Law. Overall, to what extent are these Laws relevant for Christian living today?

## Activity

- 1 *Philippians* is a letter overflowing with joy – Christians are not called to be miserable! So, the first activity this month is simply to have a laugh. If the technology is available, watch a short comedy clip together and allow yourselves to enjoy it. (precisely what kind of clip will inevitably depend on the make-up of the group, so I don't offer specific suggestions).
- 2 Spend a few minutes feeding back on last month's 'activity' which was to keep two or three written verses close by. Did individuals manage to do this? Did it make a difference?

## Further Ideas

*As usual, work through some of these ideas as the group chooses.*

- 1 *Deuteronomy 21*  
The regulations concerning atonement for unsolved murder (vv.1-9) lead us to think about the content of some of the television programmes and films we watch. Have violence and murder become sanitized, acceptable even, through over familiarity? How can we guard against this?
- 2 *Deuteronomy 22*  
“A woman must not wear man's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this” (v.5). How do we interpret a verse like this in today's 'enlightened' western culture?
- 3 *Deuteronomy 23*  
The first eight verses set out exclusions from the assembly. Who is welcome at your church?  
Who is *really* welcome at your church?
- 4 *Deuteronomy 26*  
A chapter on giving (tithes) - giving of our best (first-fruits). This is important to mirror, but what about *how* we give? Does giving to a church or charity by standing order or direct debit lose something of the connection with the physical and psychological experience of giving? Is this unhelpful?
- 5 *Deuteronomy 31*  
Joshua is appointed as Moses' successor. How does this episode compare with the way in which new ministers are selected for your church?  
And, within each church, should leadership teams be chosen by the minister, or elected by the congregation?  
Would the result be the same or different?