

- 6 *Joshua 20*  
I wrote a little in the notes about St. Cuthbert, one of my personal favourite non-Biblical saints. Who would be yours?
- 7 *Joshua 23 (see also notes on Psalm 107)*  
Joshua reminds his successors that “one of you routs a thousand because the Lord fights for you” (v.10).  
In our case this is not a recipe for mass-murder but an encouragement that we can make a difference in the world.  
Do you believe this?  
Or do you sometimes feel helpless and insignificant?
- 8 *James 2*  
What does James argue about a proper relationship between our ‘faith’ and our ‘deeds’?  
How does this play out for you personally?
- 9 *James 3*  
James writes about the power of the human tongue (vv.1-12).  
Are there things that people have said to you in the past that were (a) very positive, and (b) very negative?  
How powerfully have they stayed with you over time?
- 10 *James 5*  
James counsels members of churches to pray for those who are sick and anoint them with oil (v.14).  
How does this happen in your local church?  
Should the healing ministry become a more common feature of our regular worship?

### **Closing**

*Light a candle, silently watch the flame flicker, reflect on the discussion you have had, and pray for God’s help in addressing any specific matters that have arisen for you personally.*

*After a few minutes, close by saying together the Grace.*

# SACRED

## Group Resources

## Month 29

## Opening Prayer

For a clearer vision of the work you have set before us  
and for a better understanding of your gospel,  
Lord, direct us.

For a deeper commitment in your service  
and a greater love for all your children,  
Lord, direct us.

For a fresh understanding of the task before us  
and for a sense of urgency in our proclamation,  
Lord, direct us.

For a greater respect and acceptance among Christians of different  
traditions and for a common goal in evangelism,  
Lord, direct us.

Amen.

*(Anglican Province of the Indian Ocean)*

## General Questions

1 Were you surprised by anything in this month's readings?

2 What especially 'spoke' to you through what you studied?

## Activity

This month we consider how we identify with the idea of 'home'.

If possible, bring to the group a drawing or picture or possession or ornament that captures something important about the home you live in now or one you've lived in the past. Share this with the group and explain why that 'home' is (was) so special to you.  
How would you (or did you) feel about leaving it?

Use this to dwell on the plight of the Israelites under Joshua, coming to a new home in the land of promise. I wonder what they might have been looking forward to, and what they might have feared?

## Further Ideas

*As usual, discuss just some of these ideas as the group chooses.*

1 *Joshua 3*

As the Israelites cross the Jordan river, what would have happened if the priests hadn't taken those first steps?

After all, it would have been easy not to.

And what are the rivers in your life that you find difficult to cross? What would you need to do to take the first step?

2 *Joshua 7*

How did Joshua handle Achan's sin?

Now consider Davis' comment in the notes that:

"we prefer the tolerance of men to the praise of God."

Do we shy away from spiritual confrontation in our churches even when we know things are wrong? Why is this?

3 *Joshua 11 (and generally)*

"Then the land had rest from war" (v.23).

So the big question! After the intensity of the battles in these chapters - the catalogue of death and destruction - what are your thoughts and feelings about it all?

One specific matter. Were there no good, righteous people in Hazor (v.11) – did they *all* have to be killed? And how does all this square with the Jesus we meet in the New Testament?

4 *Joshua 14*

The land is allocated to the different tribes. How happy are you with the role 'allocated' to you? Do you ever feel 'stuck' in the same groove? How can you discern when God might be calling you to something new, something different?

5 *Joshua 16-18*

Does the evidence lead you to believe there was a conquest?

Does it matter whether the biblical account is 'true'?