

- 7     *2 Corinthians 3*  
Paul speaks of how Spirit-filled Christians radiate God's glory in their whole demeanour (v.18), regarding it as evidence of changed lives.  
Do you see this in your own congregation?  
Do you see this in yourself?
- 8     *2 Corinthians 4*  
Do you find the image of treasure in clay pots helpful for you personally? Does it bring you a sense of hope?  
  
Going further, Paul seems to suggest that it is *because* we are clay-like that we can be all the more effective in Christian ministry. Does this ring true for you?
- 9     *2 Corinthians 9*  
We return once again to the subject of Christian giving.  
How would you answer the questions raised in the notes:
- i.     Why do you give?
  - ii.    How do you decide what to give?
  - iii.   And how do you feel about it when you do?
- 10    *2 Corinthians 13*  
The grace.  
Had you realised where this well-known prayer came from?  
Stop to consider how far-reaching a prayer it is.  
What stands out for you as you do this?

### **Closing Prayer**

*As usual end by lighting a candle. Silently reflect on your discussion and pray for the Spirit's help to apply what you've learned in your own life. Close by saying together, of course, the Grace.*

# SACRED

## Group Resources

## Month 33

## Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, our Saviour,  
let us now come to you.  
Our hearts are cold:  
warm them by your selfless love.  
Our hearts are sinful:  
cleanse them by your precious blood.  
Our hearts are weak:  
strengthen them by your joyous Spirit.  
Our hearts are empty:  
fill them with your divine presence.  
Lord Jesus, our hearts are yours:  
possess them always and only for yourself.  
Amen

*(St. Augustine of Hippo, 354-43)*

## Review of Volume 5

- 1 You've now completed five of the six volumes of SACRED. So, as with the previous four reviews, share which book(s) have been your favourites in the volume you've just read?
- 2 Two recurrent themes that run through the last seven months have been 'Blessing' and 'Suffering'. As a group, discuss specific ways in which you've noticed these themes surfacing in Volume 5. Is the relationship between them as straightforward as saying obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings suffering?

## General Question

- 1 Has God spoken to you in any particular way through what you've read this month?

## Further Ideas

*Choose just a few of these questions as the flow of the discussion leads you.*

- 1 *Job (1-42)*  
What are the two or three main application lessons that you'll take away from your six-week study of *Job*?
- 2 *Job (1-42)*  
As you've been reflecting on this extended treatise on human suffering, have you noticed any parallels between Job's experience and that of Jesus?
- 3 *Job 32-37*  
Elihu. Who exactly is he?  
As this new character enters the fray, what do you see as his essential contribution to the overall discussion?
- 4 *Job 38-41*  
God speaks. If you had to summarise in a few sentences what God is really saying to Job, what would they be?  
Does his 'argument' convince you?
- 5 *Psalms 117*  
Did you do as the notes suggested and try to learn this short psalm, and recite it several times during the day?  
If so, how did you get on? Was it helpful?  
Does it encourage you to learn more of Scripture?
- 6 *Psalms 119*  
For the psalmist the Law is fulfilling not constraining – hence, his painstaking construction of this psalm.  
Pick out some of the extremely positive ways in which he describes the Law within it.  
Do you embrace such sentiments for yourself?