

- 6 *Jeremiah 50-51*  
These long chapters contain oracles concerning Babylon.  
The notes include this: “nations built on arrogance, pride in wealth, oppression and idolatry will eventually self-destruct”  
Do you think this is true?  
Is it also true for us as individuals?
- 7 *Psalms 37*  
Are you a worrier? How do you strike a balance between fretting about things and trusting that God’s hand is upon your life (as well as upon the life of others)?
- 8 *Colossians 2*  
Read again the Philip Yancey story about the conversation with the prostitute. Now, ask yourself: is *your* church ‘good news’ to all those who come? Why, or why not?  
Be honest. Are there times when church leaves you feeling worse about yourself? What causes this?
- 9 *Colossians 4*  
The three ‘p’s. Prayer, proclamation and partnership.  
How about you? Do you feel that you pray enough?  
Are you shy about proclaiming your faith to others whether by words or example?  
Are you actively involved in your church community?
- 10 *Psalms 39*  
Continuing on from the above, the Psalm 39 notes advocate a balance between work, study, prayer, rest and play.  
Is this something you manage to achieve? What would help?

### **Closing**

*Reflect on the discussion you’ve 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 the Lord’s Prayer.*

# SACRED

## Group Resources

## Month 11

## Opening Prayer

Lord, you put twenty-four hours in a day,  
and gave me a body which gets tired and can only do so much.  
Show me which tasks you want me to do,  
and help me to live prayerfully as I do them.

Sharpen my senses that I may truly  
see what I am looking at,  
taste what I am eating,  
listen to what I am hearing,  
face what I am suffering,  
celebrate the ways I am loved,  
and offer to you whatever I am doing ...

so that the water of the present moment may be turned into wine.

*(Angela Ashwin)*

## General Question

1 Having completed your marathon study of this Old Testament prophet, are there new things you've learned from the very act of persevering through the book?

Does this have something to teach us generally about the ongoing walk of faith?

## Activity

Light a candle, and place it by a cross, in the centre of the room.  
Have someone slowly and carefully read out the passage on the 'supremacy of Christ' from *Colossians 1:15-20*.  
Meditate for a while on the different characteristics of Jesus that are being described. Which aspect(s) speak to you most clearly?

## Further Ideas

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

- 1 *Jeremiah 1-52*  
What would the 21<sup>st</sup> Century media have made of Jeremiah?  
Does this have something important to tell us today in terms of the style, content and effectiveness of church preaching?
- 2 *Jeremiah 31*  
"Set up road signs, put up guideposts.  
Take note of the highway, the road that you take" (v.21).  
Has it been true for you that, as you look back on the road you've travelled, the hand of God has been guiding you in important ways?
- 3 *Jeremiah 33*  
Many of Jeremiah's prophecies in these chapters were delivered when in captivity. The notes reflect on how, when we are free from the distractions of everyday life, it can seem much easier to focus on our relationship with God.  
Has this been true in your experience?  
Have you ever been on a spiritual retreat?  
Was it a silent one and, if so, how did you find it?
- 4 *Jeremiah 36*  
The king burned Jeremiah's scroll containing the words of the Lord (v.23). How did Jeremiah react? How do *you* react when people provocatively ridicule your faith?
- 5 *Jeremiah 44*  
How can we guard against the gradual infiltration of any 'new-age' kinds of ideas that may not sit easily with the Christian faith, and so may compromise our spirituality?  
Have you yourself come across specific examples of this?