

6 *Genesis 14*
Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything (*verse 20*).
Is this a precedent for our own level of giving?
If so, do you see it more as an upper or lower limit?

7 *Genesis 18*
Abraham pleads with God for the lives of the righteous
people living in Sodom (*verses 23-32*).
What does this teach us today? Can we ‘negotiate’ with
God and, if so, in what kind of circumstances?

8 *Genesis 22*
Abraham and Isaac. What do you make of this story?
How do you think the main characters felt?

If God called you to sacrifice something very special to you,
would you be able to obey him?

9 *Genesis 24*
A wife for Isaac. There is a fascinating interplay here
between divine guidance and human initiative.

Think back to some of the big decisions you’ve made in your
own life. Was there a similar interplay between divine
guidance and human initiative?

10 *Genesis 27*
Was Rebekah right to act in the way that she did, persuading
Jacob to deceive his father Isaac and thereby claim his
blessing? In what ways (if any) can we apply this today?

Closing

*Quietly reflect on the discussion you have had, and pray for God’s
help in addressing any specific matters that have arisen for you
personally. End by saying together the Grace.*

SACRED

Group Resources

Month 2

Opening Prayer

Worship and praise belong to you, O God our maker.
Where nothing was, you wove the web of being,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfillment.
Dawn and evening celebrate your glory
till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son,
the life of heaven and earth were joined,
sealing the promise of a new creation,
given, yet still to come.
Amen.

(from a Scottish liturgy)

General Questions

- 1 Two months into SACRED, how have you settled into the rhythm of reading. Have you changed the pattern of when and how you study the Bible?
Is it something you look forward to each day?
- 2 Has anything particularly stood out for you as you have been going through this month's readings?

Activity

A member of the group will need to prepare this in advance.
Collect together a selection of say 20-30 pictures, magazine cuttings, or photographs of our beautiful world. These could include flora and fauna, landscapes, sunsets etc. Maybe mount them on pieces of card.

Spread them out on a table and allow each person time to browse them and select one or two that resonate with them in some way.
Then allow people time to show the pictures they chose and explain why. Marvel together at how the creation points to a Creator.

Further Ideas for Discussion

You shouldn't aim to go through all these questions but rather aim to spend time on just a few of them as you see fit.

- 1 *Genesis 1-30*
As you read through the first 30 chapters of Genesis (assuming you're up to date), which of the characters did you particularly warm to? Did it surprise you that we learn about these great heroes of faith warts and all?
- 2 *Genesis 1*
The notes talk about the story of the iconic photograph *Earthrise* and the impact it had. Can you think of a time when something about the sheer beauty of the world around you has changed your perspective on life?
- 3 *Genesis 2*
An aspect of David Runcorn's reflection on the creation of Adam was that the act of creation was costly for God. Elsewhere we read how God carefully and lovingly knit us together in our mother's womb (*Psalms 139:13*).

Do these insights change how you view God?
Or yourself?
- 4 *Genesis 6-8*
The saga of Noah's Ark. Have you ever felt led to do something for God that seemed really strange, even, perhaps, made you feel a little stupid?
Did you do it?
How did it all turn out?
- 5 *Genesis 9*
What is so special about rainbows (*verses 12-17*)?
Why is it that they tend to capture our imaginations?