

- 5     *2 Samuel 6*  
David leaps and dances before the Lord as he worships, much to his wife's disgust! Do you think there is room for more physically expressive worship in your church?
- 6     *2 Samuel 8 & 10*  
The notes highlight the contrast between the ruthless nature of warfare and bloodshed in the Old Testament with Jesus' command to love our enemies in the New. We'll revisit this in time to come, but what are your thoughts about this so far? And how do we apply it in today's conflict-ridden world?
- 7     *2 Samuel 11*  
David and Bathsheba. Were you familiar with this story? David is hailed as the great example of Old Testament Kingship; Jesus is descended from him. And yet he was far from perfect. Summarise how the events here escalated. What can we learn from all this?
- 8     *2 Samuel 12*  
David and Nathan. How have you reacted in the past when someone has confronted you with your own sinfulness?
- 9     *2 Samuel 18*  
Given the trouble that Absalom caused him, were you surprised just how much David mourned his lost son?
- 10    *2 Samuel 21*  
Has the language of 'rights' become too dominant in our culture, making us move away from notions of humility and servant-hood? Or do the latter qualities merely serve to make us door-mats, easy prey for those who would manipulate us?

### **Closing**

*Reflect on the discussion, and pray for God's help in addressing any specific issues that have arisen. Close by saying together the Grace.*

# SACRED

## Group Resources

## Month 8

## Opening Prayer

Great and merciful God,  
your life is the source of the whole world's life;  
your mercy is our only hope;  
your eyes watch over all your creatures;  
you know the secrets of our hearts.  
By your life-giving Spirit, draw us into your presence,  
that we may worship in the true life of your Spirit,  
with lives moved by your love,  
through him who has led us to the heart of your love,  
even Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

*(the Church of South India)*

## General Questions

- 1 What one thing has stood out for you from what you've read this month?
- 2 We have finished our study of the story of David though we will still witness his worship in many of the psalms. Overall:
  - What was he like as a king?
  - What was he like as a husband and father?
  - What was he like as a person of God?

## Activity

Download a picture of the Michelangelo sculpture of *David*, on display at the *Galleria dell'Accademia* in Florence, and either print out some copies of it or display it on a large screen. Allow some time to reflect on this highly acclaimed work of Art. Then discuss to what extent the statue is a fair representation of the man you have been reading about.

## Further Ideas

*As usual, we will not necessarily go through all these questions but will spend time on just a few of them as seems best.*

- 1 *Titus 1*  
The notes (and the text) highlight the contrast between 'doing' and 'being' qualities of Christian leadership. Where do you think the balance should be struck between the two? How about in your own day-to-day Christian discipleship?
- 2 *Titus 3*  
Paul is trying to encourage Titus to remind the people in the congregation to live lives that reflected the grace they have received through all that Jesus has done. Do we do this in our church? Would it be obvious to someone coming to a church service for the first time?
- 3 *Titus 3*  
Paul uses strong language against the "divisive" person, calling him "warped" and "sinful", and recommending they have nothing to do with him (vv.10-11). See also the sentiments of 1:12 where Cretans are referred to as "liars, evil brutes and lazy gluttons!"  
  
Do you think Paul is justified in this? Are we sometimes too "nice" in our church communities, not wanting to cause offence even where false teaching is being espoused, or where church unity is under threat?
- 4 *2 Samuel 1*  
As David offers a lament for the fallen king Saul, the notes mentioned the common *Pastoral Theology* examination question: 'In a funeral service speak no ill of the deceased. Discuss.' How would you answer this question?