

- 4 *John 6*
“I am the bread of life. Those who come to me will never go hungry; those who believe in me will never be thirsty” (v.35).
- 5 *John 8*
“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (v.12).
- 6 *John 10*
“I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep” (v.7).
- 7 *John 10*
“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (v.11, see also v.14).
- 8 *John 11*
“I am the resurrection and the life, Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (vv.25-26)
- 9 *John 14*
“I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me” (v.6).
- 10 *John 15*
“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in me, they will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (v.5, see also v.1).
- 11 *John 18*
“ ‘You are a king, then!’ said Pilate.
Jesus answered, ‘You are right in saying I am a king’” (v.37).
(see also 19:19).
- 12 *John 20*
“Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” (v.28).

SACRED

Group Resources

Month 40

Opening Prayer

Father,
pour out your Spirit upon your people,
and grant to us a new vision of your glory;
a new faithfulness to your Word;
and a new consecration to your service;
that your life may grow among us,
and your kingdom come;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(The Anglican Church in Australia)

General Questions

- 1 So you've completed your Sacred journey. Congratulations! Having done so, what are you thinking and feeling overall? Has it been worth it? What will you do next?
- 2 What has been the highlight for you from the whole course?

Activity

Try to obtain an image of Salvador Dali's 1951 painting entitled *Christ of Saint John of the Cross*. The original is on display in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow and part of its story is described in the notes for Month 28 Day 19 of Sacred where the focus was the verse from *Deuteronomy*: "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (33:27).

Feast your eyes a while on the painting.
What do you see? What does it say to you about Christ?

Closing

At the end of the session say the Lord's Prayer and then party!!

Further Ideas

As this will be the final group meeting for Sacred (unless, of course, you are intending to start all over again!), the format will be rather different to usual. Instead of considering a variety of issues that seek to apply directly what we've read to our own Christian lives, we will focus exclusively on the person of Jesus. The month's readings were all from John, the gospel that gives us the clearest statement(s) regarding who exactly Jesus is. So this final group session focuses on the overriding issue: having read all that you have read, across the whole of the Bible, who exactly do you say that Jesus is?

I set out below twelve statements in John's gospel that offer an insight into who Jesus is. Seven of them are the 'I am' statements which Jesus used to describe himself; the other five concern titles others gave to him. Select just some of these twelve and, for each one chosen, consider the context in which it is embedded, and try to answer the questions below (you may find some degree of overlap).

- *What does the statement or title mean?*
- *What does it say about Jesus?*
- *What are its implications for us as individuals?*
- *What about for the ministry and mission of your church?*

- 1 *John 1*
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us ..." (vv.1,14).
- 2 *John 1*
"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (v.29, see also v.36).
- 3 *John 3*
"No-one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man – (and he) must be lifted up. For God so loved ..." (vv.13-14,16)