



## Small group discussion questions February 2017

### Chapter & verse – Rosalind Selby (page 18)

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 followed by Rosalind Selby's article.

- Rosalind's article in *Reform* on the subject of being made in the image of God is accompanied by an image illustrating the world of the opening chapters of Genesis. How well do you think the image captures what we read in the Bible passage?
- 'What', asks Rosalind in paragraph one, 'does it mean to be made in the image of God?' How might you have answered that question before reading 'Chapter & verse'?
- In paragraph two, Rosalind lists various interpretations of the phrase. Which do you find the most – and least – convincing? And why?
- Paragraph three gives us another possible interpretation of being made in the image of God. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this interpretation?
- In paragraph four, Rosalind suggests that being in the image of God may be not about our nature but about our role 'fruitful'. In what way is God fruitful, and how might humans have a similar role?
- Genesis 1:28 describes humanity's particular relationship with creation as having 'dominion'. What does that word mean when applied to God, and what might it mean for human beings?
- In what ways has creation 'had a raw deal from us', as Rosalind puts it in paragraph five? Does this passage in Genesis justify that? Does it condemn it?
- What understanding of the phrase 'created in God's image' have you ended up with after talking through these interpretations? What practical difference might it make to believe that human beings are made in the image of God?

