



## Small group discussion questions September 2017

### Chapter & verse – Eve Parker (page 16)

Read Judges 19:20-29, followed by Eve Parker’s article.

1. The opening line of the article says that Judges 19 is a Bible passage ‘you’ll not often hear a sermon about’. Are there other biblical sections in this category?
2. Eve’s first paragraph claims that ‘church is not often used as a space to reflect on rape, human trafficking, sex work and exploitation’. Do you agree? What topics should churches talk about more?
3. Reading the article’s second paragraph, what feeling does the story of Preci, the ‘sacred sex worker’, evoke? Can you see parallels with the woman described in the Bible story?
4. Eve’s fifth paragraph explains different interpretations of this biblical text: while some focus on punishment as the passage’s central theme, others focus on the theme of hospitality. What other themes, if any, does the Bible text highlight?
5. Eve’s fourth paragraph describes the raped and murdered woman from the biblical story as ‘speechless and nameless’. In what ways has the biblical woman been silenced?
6. The article’s sixth paragraph highlights modern-day stories from abused women and girls around the world. Have you read about, or do you know of, any examples?
7. How do you feel about the fact that this story, told in this way, is in the Bible?
8. The article ends by stating that the ‘lived suffering’ of real women and girls ‘holds the potential for mobilising advocacy against such violence’. What can churches and individuals do to ‘break the silence’?

For further reflection: ‘The Lord maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor.’ Psalm 140:12

Prayer: Dear God, mother of the oppressed, we pray for those who suffering is not seen or heard. We are sorry for the times we have not listened or have turned our faces away. Be with those who are abused, we pray. Mend their brokenness and let their stories be told. Amen.

