



## Small group study materials, October 2020

### Chapter & verse – Alison Gray (page 18)

Read Numbers 6:22-27, followed by Alison Gray's article.

1. Alison's article opens with appreciation for recordings of the blessing prayer during lockdown. What was 'beautiful and inspiring' during lockdown for you? How easy do you find counting blessings?
2. For Alison, this biblical blessing 'seems timeless'. She references people in the sixth century BC finding it protective. What does this blessing mean to you? How did you feel reading it?
3. God's name is invoked three times in this blessing, Alison notes, and, in biblical times, 'names were imbued with power'. What does God's name mean to you? In what kind of moments do you call on God's name? Why?
4. The word translated as 'bless' in this Bible passage 'has the sense of preserving or guarding', Alison tells us. When in your life have you felt most preserved or guarded by God? In what ways does your church community offer protection to others?
5. The article's fourth paragraph focusses on biblical associations of God's presence through light. What other examples from the Bible can you think of that describe God's presence using the image of light?
6. 'Looking into God's eyes can enable us to feel peace,' says Alison, in the article's fifth paragraph. In what ways can we encounter God?
7. At the end of her article, Alison explains Psalm 67's reinterpretation of the priestly blessing. As Alison asks: What does this suggest about reflecting God's light to the world? How might we do this?

**For further reflection:** 'Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.'

1 Peter 3:9

