DIGGING **DEEPER**

Exodus 15 – **Singing in the desert**

PLEASE READ – Exodus 15

GETTING STARTED

What has just happened in the preceding few chapters?
So why doesn't Moses just stand and read a report of these recent events?
What are the differing pros and cons of spoken, written and sung records?
Where else in the Bible do we find songs and poetry … and why?

What is it about singing that continues to make it a commanded (Colossians 3:16) part of worship to this day, and even into eternity (Revelation 5:9-10)?

So our singing should be …

(and how might that affect our thinking and our practice?)

- **Considered**

You can't just come out with good poetry; it has to be worked on. The right choice of words can stir the imagination and the emotions. And you have time to consider *what is the most significant lesson from these events?* … and then how to include it. So this song majors on the God of miracles, rather than the miracles of God.

Do we undervalue the worth of prepared prayers?

What do you make of the provocative imagery in this chapter? - "a man of war" (3), "the blast of your nostrils" (8), etc.

- **Reflective**

Moses takes us on from what God has done, to what God himself is like (11). And therefore, *what can you expect from him? How do (should?) I respond to this great God of amazing grace?*

- **Personalised …**

The song invites all the singers to participate as "I" (1).

- **… *and* shared**

It is not just Moses singing (1). The individual praise is also expressed collectively. We are invited to respond *together*.

Singing is one of the few things we do *together* in church. But don't we sometimes use songs as punctuation marks in a service, a convenient time to take the kids out or go to the loo. Are we underestimating the value of these times?

- **Memorable and repeatable**

Moses and "the people" (literally the *sons,* though often used to express the whole nation) sing together in v1. Miriam and the women sing almost identical words in v21.

- So this is a teaching and learning session too, too?