

GROUP LEADERS NOTES ON PSALM 7

Question 1

- a) With all the outstanding issues in this psalm, David begins with a fact. He has a refuge and that refuge is in God.
- b) This theme of placing himself in God's hands continues throughout the psalm and at this point is a call for deliverance and protection.
- c) Often the psalmist's enemies are symbolised by vicious, attacking animals. Other examples of this are found in **Psalm 10:9** and **Psalm 57:4**.
- d) This is a declaration of confidence.

Question 2

- a) David hands the verdict over to the Lord to see whether his enemies are justified in their accusations.
- b) It is God who knows the heart (Psalm 139:23-24).
- c) Notice the three 'ifs'. David recognises that if he has done wrong then he should be judged accordingly.
- d) We can learn from David that rather than react to such accusation we should lay the situation before the Lord and ask Him to examine both it and us.

Question 3

- a) Abishai was an aide to David throughout his rise to the throne and was with David in Saul's camp when he had opportunity to kill Saul (**1 Samuel 26:7-9**).
- b) With that in mind he was in a good position to defend David's honour. He would have been willing to defend him to the death.
- c) David hands the situation over to God. Notice at the end of verse 6 that he knows God is going to judge and he will vindicate David.
- d) In verse 8 David is not claiming sinlessness but innocence; as in

a court case.

- e) He knows that he has shown integrity in his dealings with Saul and that good will win out: *"let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may You establish the righteous"* (v9).
- f) Verse 9b God is righteous in His judgements because He tests the inner parts of a person.

Question 4

- a) This shows David's confidence in God's verdict.
- b) The idea of the shield here is that of defence (note the purpose of the shield in the 'armour of God' in **Ephesians 6:16**).
- c) *"The idea may be taken from the armour bearer, ever ready at hand to give the needed weapon to the warrior"* (Andrew A. Bonar).
- d) This shield gives an assurance of protection.
- e) The two things that David builds his confidence on are (i) that God saves the upright; and (ii) that God is altogether righteous in His judgement,
- f) If we get upset and angry by sin then what does God feel? He feels indignation; He is offended; He detests sin. The next verses in the psalm describe what God will do in executing His judgement.

Question 5

This question is intended to draw from the group the need to focus on the Lord.

- a) Note the number of references David makes to the LORD; even on two occasions referring to *"O LORD my God"*.