

GROUP LEADERS NOTES ON PSALM 56

Question 1

- a) Some of the words David uses in these verses express intensive opposition and oppression: *tramples; all day long; oppresses; proudly* (ESV).
- b) Refer the group to **1 Samuel 21:10-12**.
- c) This was a real situation which threatened his life. If he did not start at the place of 'fear' then he would not reach the place of 'faith' which is expressed in the following verses of the psalm.
- d) This was the case for the disciples in the storm on the lake in **Luke 8:22-25**.

Question 2

- a) One writer suggests that verses 3-4 could be summarised: *"When I am afraid, I will not be afraid"*.
- b) Having made a purposeful decision to have confidence in God, trust then replaces the initial reaction to his circumstances.
- c) His rhetorical question at the end of verse 4 is a statement of faith.

Question 3

- a) God's praise-worthy word: His promises can be trusted.
- b) God's faithful character: He never changes.
- c) God's sovereign overruling: He created man and ultimately rules over man.
- d) In other words: do not fear man, he is but flesh that will die.

Question 4

- a) Those who oppose him oppose God's purposes and it is left to God to respond.
- b) God's anger against sin is not emotional but results from His holy nature.
- c) David is concerned that God's honour is upheld and His holiness vindicated.

Question 5

- a) Sometimes we can wonder whether God knows what we are going through.
- b) David is convinced that He does. This is backed up by what he believes in Psalm 139.
- c) Jesus tells his disciples that even the hairs of their head are numbered (Matt 10:30).
- d) Tear bottles have been found by archaeologists in the land of Israel dating back to biblical times. Catching and collecting some of your tears in these small tear bottles during times of sorrow gave more meaning to your sorrow. It was a time to be remembered.
- e) David wanted the Lord to remember his times of sorrow.

Question 6

- a) How easy to 'forget' when we are no longer in the place of danger.
- b) David is convinced that he must respond to God's goodness to him.
- c) The idea of walking suggests activity; but also direction. His walk is in the sight and under the guidance of God.
- d) Helpful verses: **Jude:24-25; Psalm 116:12-14**.