

GROUP LEADERS NOTES ON PSALM 57

Question 1

- a) By starting his prayer with a focus on God he puts the situation into perspective.
- b) Note that verse 1 emphasises the Psalmist's reliance on God and not on himself.
- c) When David declares 'God Most High' he is saying that God is transcendent; far above His creation and any power.
- d) This great God is still concerned to be intimately involved in His people's lives.
- e) Verse 2 is a critical verse in this Psalm. If anything the whole thing centres on the confidence that whatever happened God had a plan for his life and would fulfil that plan (c.f. **Psalm 33:10-12** for the same belief in respect of a nation).

Question 2

- a) The illustration in verse 1 is that of a mother hen comforting and protecting her brood from predators.
- b) It is not the last time this illustration will be used. See Jesus' words in **Matthew 23:37** and His concern over the Jews who had rejected His Messiahship.
- c) The beasts in verse 4 have in mind the opposite of comfort and protection. They are menacing creatures and there to destroy (note the reference to teeth like spears and arrows; tongues like sharp swords). This is a reference to the enemy; in this case Saul and his men who outnumber David and his men by 5 to 1!

Question 3

- a) To be steadfast is to be steady or well prepared.
- b) The idea here is that his heart is fixed to praise God; whatever the circumstances.
- c) This is expressed in thanksgiving; something Paul encourages in **Philippians 4:6**.
- d) In verse 8 he rouses his soul from being weighed down with care.
- e) The idea of waking the dawn expresses his zeal and diligence. From the moment he awakes his song will ring out.

Question 4

- a) David wants the nations (or those who don't know God) to hear his praise and in turn praise God for His salvation. Even though the psalmist is going through extreme trials he wants others to hear about how good God is.
- b) This is evangelistic and is a typical overflow of praise found in the Psalms.
- c) In verse 10 the reason for this declaration is given. God is consistent and trustworthy and the idea of reaching to the heavens and the clouds describes the immensity of those attributes. Why would we not want to declare God's steadfast love and His faithfulness?

Question 5

- a) David's goal is the glory of God; something that is more important than even his protection and deliverance from the current predicament.
- b) God's glory is all about His intrinsic worth. It means that God is worthy of all honour because of who He is; a God who is perfect in all of His attributes and ways.
- c) To glorify God then is to ascribe honour and praise to God for who He is and for what He has done.
- d) Note how David breaks off the description of his predicament between verses 4 and 6 because he wants God to have His rightful place!

Question 6

Try and draw out from the group some of the things we have highlighted from the Psalm:

e.g.

- Reliance on God and not on self.
- A heart fixed to praise God; whatever the circumstances
- Wanting others to hear about how good God is even through trials.
- Making it our goal to glorify God in every situation.
- Trusting more that God's love is steadfast and that He is always faithful.