

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES ON PSALM 3

### Question 1

- a) There are many foes who are increasing in number (**2 Sam 15:12**); but one God!
- b) The enemy rises against David; God is for David (see **Rom 8:31**).
- c) The enemy holds out no hope for David; God saves him.

### Question 2

- a) David's faith is strong; emphasised in his retort beginning 'but...'
- b) His confidence is based on the fact the God has answered his cry.
- c) God is a shield to protect him; his glory was not in whether he held a place of earthly prominence or not; it was in God. The term points to the comparative unimportance of earthly esteem, which is always transient and fickle.
- d) *"To lift up the head"* is a Hebrew expression for restoring someone who is cast down in his dignity and position. It refers here to God restoring to David the joy that he had before the crisis brought him low.

### Question 3

- a) Notice in the previous verses that he has cried out to God; he has prayed (compare **Phil 4:6-7**).
- b) He is totally reliant on God's grace to sustain him. Whether he wakes or not is down to God.

### Question 4

- a) Believing prayer depends completely on God for deliverance.
- b) An increasing number are rising up against David; he relies on God to win!
- c) To be struck on the cheek was the ultimate humiliation. To break the teeth makes the enemy powerless.
- d) In verse 2, David's sceptics had said that God would not save him. Here in verse 7, David confidently uses the same term to ask God to save him (i.e. 'salvation' & 'save me').

### Question 5

- a) The enemies said there was no salvation for David. He now proclaims that salvation is the sole prerogative of God; it belongs to him (compare **Acts 4:11-12**).
- b) David's final request, *"Your blessing be on Your people"* shows that David was not praying selfishly. He was the anointed king of God's people. His son's rebellion affected the entire nation and was a challenge to God's covenant promises.
- c) When David asked God to deliver him, he saw it in terms of God's blessing on His people.

### Question 6

Try and draw out from the group key verses or phrases that struck them about confidence in God when things seem to be falling apart.