

GROUP LEADERS NOTES ON PSALM 63

Question 1

- a) When even his own family have risen up against him, David's God remains the 'constant' in his life.
- b) Only God can satisfy his need for spiritual and physical nourishment.
- c) Sometimes we feel separated from God but then experience an intense longing for Him which is almost a feeling of deepest pain.
- d) This is reminiscent of another Psalmist in **Psalm 42:1-3**.
- e) W. Tozer wrote, "*Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth.... Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God. They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night, in season and out, and when they had found Him, the finding was all the sweeter for the long seeking.*"

Question 2

- a) The 'sanctuary' here is a reference to the tabernacle, or 'house of God'; the place that symbolised the presence of God among His people; the centre of the nation's worship life.
- b) It was a place where historically God had revealed His glory and power: e.g. **Exodus 40:34-35**. It was an awesome revelation that remaindered God's people who He was.
- c) David was away from that centre of worship but his heart was still there.
- d) *"First, he seeks God. He wanted to see God's power and glory as he had seen it in the sanctuary. He wanted to see that wilderness turned into a sanctuary. David had been in the tabernacle. He had seen the glory of God, but he wasn't satisfied with that. We are satisfied to hear about God and sing about Him in church. Then we come to the wilderness. We should be like David and say, "I want to see God's glory through this wilderness experience just as though I were worshiping God in the church service" (Warren Wiersbe.*

Question 3

- a) The overarching statement in these verses is found at the beginning of verse 3: *"Because your steadfast love is better than life"*.
- b) The clue to its importance is the word 'because'; setting up what the question describes as 'a list of consequences'.
- c) The contrast is between God's love and a long and prosperous life outside of that love. David wanted God more than he wanted life.
- d) *"When David says that the love of God is better than life and therefore better than all the beauty that life means, he is not denying that all these good things come from the love of God. He is warning us, rather, that if our hearts settle (even gratefully!) on the beauty of the gift and do not yearn for the infinitely greater beauty of the Giver, then we are idolaters and not worshipers of God" (John Piper).*

- e) The word steadfast speaks of being steady and reliable; contrasting the human love which is often portrayed in popular songs and films.

Question 4

- The praise of the lips (v3)
- Blessing God (v4)
- Lifting up of hands (v4). In this context it refers to reaching out to God in prayer.
- Satisfied soul (v5). This refers to inner satisfaction
- Joyful remembrance (v5b-6)
- Joyful song (v7)
- Confident Protection (v8)

The common theme is a confident thinking that is away from 'self' and instead is 'Godward'.

Question 5

- a) These verses show why David is right to be confident in the previous verses.
- b) He is not trying to bury his head in the sand; hoping against hope that something will work out.
- c) He believes in a God who has already planned things out; nothing can thwart His will: **Psalms 33:10-11**.

Question 6

Try and encourage different members of the group to share their special Bible promises. To set the ball rolling either brief someone before the meeting; asking them to open the discussion with their experience, or be prepared to start things yourself.