

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 23

Question 1

- a) God's providential care over creation.
- b) The value He places on us, who He created in His image.
- c) Worry does not add to our lives but replaces trust.

Question 2

- a) Lack of uncompromising trust in God to meet our needs is not only an affront to Him, but is the approach of the unbeliever (Gentile is used in this context as a 'pagan' or 'unbeliever').
- b) By not trusting God implicitly we are suggesting that He is not aware of our needs and not in control of our lives. We would never confess such thoughts but nevertheless can live as though we believe them.
- c) To worry about material things is in effect to live like the unbeliever.

Question 3

- a) To 'seek' is to pursue. It is a never-ending quest.
- b) We are to pursue spiritual things rather than material: (**Col 3:1-4**).
- c) The kingdom is God's rule in our lives. We are to pursue Him and His kingdom values (**Romans 12:2**).
- d) We are also to pursue righteousness or holiness. He is the model! This is not what the world pursues but again embraces kingdom values. We live in obedience to God's word.

Question 4

- a) Jesus is not setting out conditions for God's providential care.
- b) He is promoting a reassessment of our priorities. We are to trust Him for his provision. Our task is to pursue His kingdom and righteousness (**1 Tim 6:6-7**).

Question 5

- a) We are to take one day at a time.
- b) That does not mean we should not be responsible citizens but that we should carry out in practice what we have prayed in the Lord's Prayer: "*Give us this day our daily bread*" (6:11).
- c) The Bible is clear that we should consider the future (**2 Cor 12:14; 1 Tim 5:8; James 4:13-15**). However, we should not worry about it.

Question 6

- a) We need to understand more of the attributes of God; giving us more confidence in His power in our lives (**Eph 1:16-21**).
- b) Practice trusting Him with day to day matters (**Prov 3:5-6**).
- c) We can practice taking things that might worry us and bringing them to the Lord in prayer; leaving them with Him and thanking Him for answers (**Phil 4:6-7**).

**What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.**