

Chat with the Children

- Songs, music that expresses how we feel?
 - get folk to give examples...
 - pop music...
- Play beginning of Queen "Under Pressure"..
 - see who recognises it first...

Introduction

- Fragmented world, and perhaps fragmented lives?
 - how does life hang together?
- Don't know who Cush was, but Saul (who was himself a Benjamite) surrounded himself with his own tribe...
 - someone from Saul's camp at the time before David was king?
 - when David was at times pursued by Saul for his life...?
 - asking himself, "why me, I'm the good guy?"
- *What is the clear centre to a good and fruitful life?*
 - (see structure diagram for Psalm 7, on projector...)
 - compare with those "making of" programmes - you enjoy the film/programme, but seeing how it was made adds something to the pleasure and appreciation... similarly with this Psalm; don't need to know the whole Hebrew poetry thing, but can give an extra layer of appreciation and understanding...

Under pressure (v.1-2)

- *Present shelter and prayer...*
- David gives us a graphic image of being under pressure
 - some of us are more poetic than others - this is not how I'd put it!!
 - but we certainly get a sense of how David was feeling!
 - pursued... frightened for his life... feeling like he's about to be ripped apart... without hope of rescue...
 - so seeks refuge and protection from God

Under conviction (v.3-5)

- Recognising that to call on God is to be in relationship with God:
 - and that that is impossible with sin undealt with...
 - even unknowing sin
- For sin brings its own reward...
 - echoed in vs.14-16, with again very graphic imagery...

Under his judgement (v.6-8a, 10-13)

- For God is supreme fount of righteousness and justice...
- He is the God of Justice
 - heart-cry of one of the Ohio kidnap/rape victims at the trial of her captor in the States this week: "I spent 11 years in hell. Now your hell is just beginning," she said. "You will face hell for eternity."

Under his forgiveness (v.8b-9)

- A clear conscience stands at the centre...
- Comes through the Cross, and our putting our trust and faith in him
 - putting it on like a cloak...
- *This is the jigsaw piece that lets all the others fit together properly*

Under his care (v.17)

- Final conclusion is thematically related to the opening section, but more fully articulates an answer to the feeling of being under pressure...
 - God will answer, and David will give thanks
 - *his life is centred again where it should be - on right relationship with God*
 - *and the rest may still be tricky - but its in perspective, in its place now*