

## Spiritual Formation Questions for Small Groups and Families

"God's Answer to Abuse" (Psalm 10)

*Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?*

*Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? (verse 1)*

1. Have you ever been there in your prayer? (Or wished you dared to put it this starkly?)  
Do you wish to share the experience?
2. Have you ever prayed this (or wanted to) in a situation of abuse?  
Abuse can be physical, verbal, sexual, any kind of undue harassment, even neglect.
3. Among verses 2 through 13 is there one or two which fit your experience?
4. In light of Jesus saying "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who mistreat you," is it legitimate to pray verse 12 or verse 15? If so, why? If so, how?  
(Consider the story from the sermon about the abused young lady who offered her father forgiveness on his deathbed for his abuse only to receive his denial that it had ever happened.)

*But you, O God, do see trouble and grief;*

*you consider it to take it in hand.*

*The victim commits himself to you;*

*you are the helper of the fatherless. (verse 14)*

*You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted;*

*you encourage them and you listen to their cry,*

*defending the fatherless and the oppressed, (verses 17, 18a)*

5. Have you ever, in effect, prayed this prayer after praying verse 1? If so, tell about what made it possible? What did God use? Another person? Something from his Word? A strategically-timed experience? Something else?

*The Lord is King forever and ever;*

*the nations will perish from his land....*

*in order that man, who is of the earth,*

*may terrify no more. (verses 16, 18b)*

6. Here is a hint of the *new heaven and earth*, after Jesus comes. (See Revelation 21:1-5) And although evil will reign until that day, it will not "reign supreme." In the light of Romans 8:28, how does I Corinthians 15:58 both inspire and challenge us? (Flashes of tomorrow today!!)
7. What might your answer to question 6 say about a calling to encourage and help those who are abused? Have you kept your bulletin handouts from New Hope and the CRC Committee on Abuse Prevention?