

WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group study notes w/b Sunday 9 December 2007

His love endures forever

Psalm 136:1-9

This week's study is the last of 2007 since next week is down as a DIY/Christmas social week. We shall be picking up again in January with a series of sermons and LIFE group studies on Paul's letter to the Galatians. I thought that it might be useful this week, with the business of Christmas approaching, to allow a little more time for prayer in the groups, hence the shorter study below.

Read Psalm 136

Psalms 118-136, but especially Psalm 136 is known as the 'Great Hallel' and was said or sung at the Jewish festival of Passover, the annual remembrance of God rescuing his people from slavery in Egypt. A priest or choir in the Temple probably sang the first part of each verse, with the congregation singing the refrain '*His love endures for ever*'.

1. The psalm divides into five parts. What is the subject matter of each part?
 - a) vv 1-3
 - b) vv 4-9
 - c) vv 10-16
 - d) vv 17-25
 - e) v 26

Let's focus now on vv 1-9.

2. What aspects of God's character are highlighted by verses 1-9?
3. What does '*His love endures for ever*' mean, in practice, for us today?
4. Looking back over 2007, list as many examples that you can think of in which we have seen the goodness of the Lord in the life of Whitfield Parish.
5. Now take some time to turn these things into prayers, especially prayers of thanks, as you move into a time of prayer.

Now, can I suggest that you share in the group your hopes, and any fears, that you have for Christmas... 2008... the Parish.... your LIFE group. And then lift those to God... remembering to **keep recognising aspects of God's character** and **giving thanks to him** as you pray.