

Small Group Resource Guide

Psalm 86 - Week of 10/21/2020

Open in prayer

Video Intro

Group Time

- **Personal Reflection:** Take a moment to think about what may be dividing your heart (what you might be fearful of) today – write it down. *Lord, I Need You*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e37m315eH8g>
- **Exploration:** Look through verses 1-10 and record some of the reasons David gives for the Lord to hear him below:

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- Why do you think David spends so much time recounting why God should hear him?



What is David's first big ask (v. 11)? Why do you think this is his petition?

- Read Exodus 34:6 below and answer the question that follow:

Exodus 34:6 "The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness..."	Who is speaking? What is the context of this verse?
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- Now take turns reading the following passages from the Old Testament, and underline common words/phrases:

Numbers 14:13 "The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation."
Nehemiah 9:17 "They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that You performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But You are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them."

Psalm 103:8

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

Jonah 4:2

“And he prayed to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.’”

Joel 2:13

“...Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster.”

- Why do you think these words are repeated so many times throughout the Old Testament?
- Now read Psalm 86:13, 15 and answer the following question:

Psalm 86:12 “For great is Your steadfast love toward me; You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.”	Why does David repeat these words twice (once partially, once fully) in this Psalm?
Psalm 86:15 “But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”	



All of this leads to David FINALLY getting to his immediate problem in v. 14. Why do you think he didn't make this his first big ask?

- Read. V. 16 and 17. They have a similar pattern to v. 1-7, but how are they different? What change do you notice?

Desperate David

What is David desperate for in v. 1-10?

Think about David's relationship with the Lord

What is David desperate for in v. 11-13?

What is David desperately doing in v. 14-17?

What do you notice about the pattern of David's progression in this Psalm?

- **Video wrap-up**
- **Application Questions:**
 - What stood out to you in this Psalm and why?
 - Share about a time in your life (maybe it's now) when something going on was so hard you couldn't even pray about it. How did you, if you did, ever get to a point where you could pray about it? How can this Psalm help us to pray about really hard things?
 - Look back at what you wrote during the personal reflection time – what are you fearful of today? How does this Psalm help you to move from fearfulness to trust in God?
 - David clearly got to a point where he understood that the most important thing, even when he was being chased by people who wanted to kill him, was his relationship with God. Is your relationship with God the first thing you examine when things are wrong - is it the first "big ask" you have in your prayer time? Why or why not?
- **Prayer requests/Prayer**

For Further Study

- Throughout this Psalm, David uses three different names of God: the LORD (Yahweh), God (Elohim), the Lord (Adonai). Make a chart of what David says to God each time he uses one of these names. Think about why David uses these three names. Note: If you don't know what each of these names mean, do a quick google search to find out.
- Worship: *Blessed Be the Name of the Lord*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=du0il6d-DAk>

