



Hill Cliffe Study Guide  
Sunday 27 August 2023  
#5 Psalm 86

1. What impacted you most from the Sunday sermon on Psalm 86?

*Sometimes it can feel like God is hard to understand, especially in moments of personal distress when God appears to us to be inactive, or uncaring, or unconcerned or remote. This may shake our sense of confidence in the Lord, and consequently affect our prayer life. We may withdraw or become distant from God – or even stop speaking with God at all. In those moments especially, it's important to take a step back and try to re-find the truth about God (beyond our feelings of the moment), and recover the true character of God - tried and tested over the span of history and generations. This will not only help us regain our trust in the Lord, but also begin to re-shape our prayer life with the Lord as we stand on the truth.*

*In Psalm 86 David takes a step back in the midst of his own personal distress to recall the truth about God, and he then begins to pray from this place of truth.*

Psalm 86 (New American Standard Bible)

**5 For You, Lord, are good,  
and ready to forgive,  
and abundant in lovingkindness  
to all who call upon You.**

***For You, Lord, are good...***

2. How is the goodness of God revealed in the bible and in our lives?
3. What do you think Jesus means when he says, 'There is no-one good but God'?
4. How will our prayer lives be re-shaped when we stand on the truth of God's goodness, especially when we are in distress?

***and ready to forgive,***

5. How does the readiness of God to forgive contrast with the attitude to forgiveness we often find in our own heart and in others?
6. How will our prayer lives be re-shaped when we stand on the truth of God's readiness to forgive?

***and abundant in lovingkindness***

7. Where do you see evidence of the abundance of God's lovingkindness in the life of Jesus, and where have you experienced it in your own life and family?
8. How will our prayer lives be re-shaped when we stand on the truth of God's abundant lovingkindness, especially when we are in distress?

Psalm 86. **6 Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.  
7 When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.**

9. How does this simple prayer reflect the reality that David is standing on the truth of God's character?
10. Please read Hebrews 4.14-16 – and spend time in prayer in response to this life-giving truth.