

## Psalm 86: 1-7 (ESV): Give Ear to My Prayer

**Main point:** God hears your prayers and is faithful to answer.

**Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.**

**Background:** A prayer of David. He lists lots of requests in this prayer, with a definite sense of urgency.

### Focus of the study:

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.

<sup>2</sup> Preserve my life, for I am godly;  
save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

<sup>3</sup> Be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for to you do I cry all the day.

<sup>4</sup> Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

<sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

<sup>6</sup> Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
listen to my plea for grace.

<sup>7</sup> In the day of my trouble I call upon you,  
for you answer me.

### Questions:

1. *What is the attitude of the speaker in this psalm? (generate as many definitions/ideas as possible for each word or phrase)*
  - a. v. 1: poor
  - b. v. 1: needy
  - c. v. 2: “godly” (looking to God, loyal to God)
  - d. v. 2: trusting
  - e. v. 3: crying out
  - f. v. 6: pleading
  - g. v. 7: troubled
2. *What is the psalmist asking for? (generate as many definitions/ideas as possible for each word or phrase)*
  - a. v. 1: “incline your ear”
  - b. v. 1: “answer me”
  - c. v. 2: “preserve my life”
  - d. v. 2: “save”
  - e. v. 3: “be gracious”

- f. v. 4: "gladden the soul"
- 3. *When does the psalmist pray?*
  - a. v. 3: "all the day"
  - b. v. 7: "in the day of trouble"
- 4. *How does the psalmist pray?*
  - a. v. 2: trusting
  - b. v. 3: humbly (my cry)
  - c. v. 6: pleading
- 5. *Here's the most important question: Who is he asking?*
  - a. God!
- 6. *Why does he ask God for these things? What is God like? "For you, O Lord..."*
  - a. are good, forgiving, abounding in love, steadfast; and
  - b. you answer me
- 7. *Why do we pray?*
  - a. We need help!
- 8. *Who do we pray to?*
  - a. God, the powerful and gracious, who listens and answers his people (not the "universe" ...)
- 9. *Based on the example of this psalm, how do you think should we pray?*
  - a. without ceasing
  - b. with thanks
  - c. with sincerity/honesty, pleading, crying out, earnestly
  - d. in faith in God's goodness
- 10. Ask for any prayer requests for today.
- 11. Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- 12. End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace