

Group Discussion Guide for Week of 7/30/2023

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Psalms 86 (NIV)*

A prayer of David.

¹Hear me, Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

²Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; ³have mercy on me, Lord,
for I call to you all day long.

⁴Bring joy to your servant, Lord,
for I put my trust in you.

⁵You, Lord, are forgiving and good,
abounding in love to all who call to you.

⁶Hear my prayer, Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy.

⁷When I am in distress, I call to you,
because you answer me.

⁸Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.

⁹All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.

¹⁰For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.

¹¹Teach me your way, Lord,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

¹²I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.

¹³For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths,
from the realm of the dead.

¹⁴Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God;
ruthless people are trying to kill me—
they have no regard for you.

¹⁵But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy on me;
show your strength in behalf of your servant;
save me, because I serve you
just as my mother did.

¹⁷Give me a sign of your goodness,
that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,
for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

General Question Bank

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Know (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

Together (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

Discussion/Topic Starter (Ice Breaker)

- What are some false gods of our society? What does worship of these gods look like?

Psalm 86

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

****Another way to ask: "Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further." Now share it with the group*

I: In the psalms, the poet typically calls on God to save him and then at the end of the psalm expresses his hope for deliverance. However, Psalm 86 is different. The psalm begins, "Hear me, Lord" (v. 1) and ends, "give me a sign" (v. 17). In other words, David still hasn't seen his prayer answered. How do you see David praise God before seeing tangible results?

I: When was the last time God got you out of a tight spot? How did you use that opportunity to give Him recognition—to honor His Name, as David prays here?

I: God loves you and has always loved you, even before the world was made (Eph 1:4). But your actions can please or displease Him (Rom 8:8; Gal 1:10; 1 Thes 2:14-16; 4:1). When do you most experience signs of God's pleasure? Is there any habit in your life that you sense God calling you to set aside?

A: verse 11 is the center point and thematic climax of this psalm. Commit it to memory this week.

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

Recommended Follow-up:

Pray: Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He's in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him. Pray together, spend some time being silent.

Respond: Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's devotional guide.

An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides. We believe the process for this transformation happens in community, hence the **“Together”** part of the Riverside mission as well.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”
- **“Together**, what is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on [Colossians 1:9-10](#), see below)

Know – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God.”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

Be – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

Do – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)*
To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week.**

Colossians 1:9-10, NIV

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...

* As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide was created in consultation with *Psalms 90-150: A Christian Union Bible Study* (Christian Union Bible Studies), Tyndale House Publishers.