

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a 5-minute review of Peppy's sermon

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions for January 31 - Psalm 86

Title: Avoiding the Devil's Snare

Have the group read together **Psalm 86**—*Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,*

for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am godly;

save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

Be gracious to me, O Lord,

for to you do I cry all the day.

Gladden the soul of your servant,

for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,

abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;

listen to my plea for grace.

In the day of my trouble I call upon you,

for you answer me.

*There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.*

All the nations you have made shall come

and worship before you, O Lord,

and shall glorify your name.

For you are great and do wondrous things;

you alone are God.

*Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.
I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.
For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.*

*O God, insolent men have risen up against me;
a band of ruthless men seeks my life,
and they do not set you before them.
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant,
and save the son of your maidservant.
Show me a sign of your favor,
that those who hate me may see and be put to shame
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.*

QUESTION: Author of “Come, Thou Fount,” Robert Robinson, penned these words:

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let thy goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

We have a tendency to wander away from God. Why is that? Brainstorm for reasons you think we allow ourselves to divert from the path that takes us from HERE to THERE.

Question: In Psalm 86 (above), I see David using praise to God to keep his heart undivided. Read through Psalm 86 again and pick out the reasons why David (and we) should never allow our heart to be divided from God.

Question: Scan through the Psalm 86 and pick out reasons David gives for putting his whole-hearted trust in God. Now make it personal and share with the group reasons why God is worthy of your single-minded trust and devotion.

Question: Peppy listed three examples from the Bible of a divided heart. He also illustrated how the devil can lure us into dividing our hearts. How could Peppy's illustration divide our hearts in the area of prosperity (Rev. 3:14-16), money (Matt. 6:24), and self-promotion (Acts 5:1-11).

Question: How can we avoid the devil's snare? Review the four points Peppy gave us and describe how these can make you snare-proof.