



## SD#118 118 The Heart of the Father, part 1

Psalm 86:15(ESV) *“But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”*

### Reflection Questions:

- 1) How does your relationship with your earthly father impact your relationship with God?
- 2) Do you trust that God supplies all your needs?
- 3) What is one practical way you can shape your view of God’s love?



### Extended Devotion:

There is most definitely a stereotype of fathers (moms also) in today's society. Whether we're viewing a television show, listening to a song, or reading a book, article, the "dad type" is negatively pervading our society. Yes, everywhere we turn it's hard for us to shape and mold a Biblical view of fatherhood. Sometimes this is difficult because of our personal experiences with fathers or husbands. Regardless of what we've experienced or see all around us, we can take comfort and claim God's promises as our own and then live them out.

Throughout both the Old and New Testaments in the Bible, we see a dominant theme of God's patience and steadfast loving kindness toward His people. No matter how many times they broke His commandments, He bestowed grace and mercy. Yes, sometimes that meant disciplining them because He loved them. The Lord corrects those He loves (Hebrews 12:6) and this is not always easy for us. This can also comfort us with the realization that He loves us enough to do so.

In our fallen world, it's often hard for us to remember how good our Heavenly Father is in every area of our lives. He not only corrects us to draw us back to Him, but He also supplies every one of our needs. When our struggles seem abundant, it's easy to forget that God is bigger than our struggles. **When our own fathers fall short of our expectations, God will exceed our expectations every single time.** His way is also better. However, we must remember that whether or not we're content in our story, His ways are higher and we will find joy in trusting in Him.

Lamentations 3:22-23(NIV) says, "*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*" When relationships here on earth fall short of our expectations, God's love and compassion outweigh it all. He is loving and He is faithful. May we seek solace in this truth.

### Application:

1. Meditate and memorize Psalm 86:15.
2. Writing out our supplications to the Lord helps keep our minds focused. Write out a few right now and take them before your Heavenly Father. He cares about each one.

### Takeaway:

God is our good, good Father, full of steadfast and loving-kindness.

