

CONVERSATION GUIDE



THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS WEEK TWO



SCRIPTURE BARUCH 5:1-9

¹ Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. ² Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting. ³ For God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. ⁴ For your name will forever be called by God, "Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness. ⁵ Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One rejoicing that God has remembered them. ⁶ For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. ⁷ For God has commanded that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. ⁸ The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. ⁹ For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What feelings does the word "home" evoke for you? Where do you call home?
2. What positive experience did you have from Thanksgiving (going or coming home, or simply being together) that you would like to expand on during Christmastime gatherings?
3. Read aloud Baruch 5:6. What does it promise the Israelites? What is the application for us in coming home to God this Christmas?
4. How can you bring joy to family members this Christmas so they have a positive experience being home?
5. Read Philippians 1:6 (next page). What is the good work that God has begun in you that you need to continue to complete? How does this help us come home to God?

Deeper Dive

How do you think you will feel when you go home to Father's house in heaven and are greeted by relatives and loved ones?

What do you think your loved ones will say to welcome you to your Father's house in heaven?

From today's message, is there a...

- Scripture to ponder?
- Prayer to pray?
- Action to take?
- Conversation to start?
- Mindset to change?

We exist to form disciples of **Jesus Christ!**

Reading II PHILIPPIANS 1:4-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters:

⁴ I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you,

⁵ because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now.

⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁸ God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer:

that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception,

¹⁰ to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel LUKE 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

Every valley shall be filled

and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

The winding roads shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”