

CONVERSATION GUIDE



THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS WEEK THREE



SCRIPTURE ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18A

¹⁴ Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. ¹⁶ On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, do not be discouraged! ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, ¹⁸ as one sings on festival days.

The Promise of Christmas is that we will know joy. We will know joy because the Lord is present; he who is a mighty savior is in our midst. We can reap this joy when we recognize God rejoices over us in gladness as he provides his healing and protective presence in our lives. We are emboldened to sing in joy for God our strength.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you define joy? What is the difference between joy and happiness?
2. What is your reaction to hearing that joy is a choice?
3. Singing and joy go together. Do you have a playlist of worship songs? Are there any songs speaking to your heart right now?
4. Read aloud Zephaniah 3:16-18a. What do these verses tell us about joy?
5. Three steps were suggested for entering into joy: Sing, slow down, and share. Which of these are you most likely to do and why?

Deeper Dive

Read aloud Zephaniah 3:14-18a. Then reread aloud a second time. Share the words or phrases that resonate with you and speak to your heart.

What is the joy you have received from a relationship with Christ? How would you share that testimony with others?

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 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters:
Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near.
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel LUKE 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist,
“What should we do?”
He said to them in reply,
“Whoever has two cloaks
should share with the person who has none.
And whoever has food should do likewise.”
Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him,
“Teacher, what should we do?”
He answered them,
“Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.”
Soldiers also asked him,
“And what is it that we should do?”
He told them,
“Do not practice extortion,
do not falsely accuse anyone,
and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with expectation,
and all were asking in their hearts
whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying,
“I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
Exhorting them in many other ways,
he preached good news to the people.