

**Trinity Anglican Church, Sarnia**  
**Advent Bible Study – 2021. Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love**  
*With Canon Vicars Hodge*

**Week #3. Joy. Zephaniah 3: 8-20. Luke 19:1-9**

**Question 1.**

- a) Look over v. 15 and 19 and make a list of the *causes of rejoicing* on “that day”. (try reading it in different translation such as The Message)
- b) Which of these promises gives YOU most cause for joy today? Share why if you wish.

**Question 2**

In Zephaniah there is a pattern of three themes: **Rebellion, Restoration, Rejoicing**, sometimes with abrupt transitions such between v.8 and 9.

- a) How does it feel to realize that God’s promise of purification is intended to bless not to destroy?
- b) How does that realization lead you to rejoicing?
- c) How does this square with your experience of God?
- d) Think / Talk about some things you long to see Christ restore at his second coming.
- e) Does the pattern of Rebellion, Restoration, Rejoicing have any personal resonance for you?
- f) What is the most important thing God is showing you in Zephaniah?

**Question 3**

Can you picture in your mind the scene of Jesus looking up into the sycamore tree and calling down Zacchaeus. Can you imagine the surprise for Zacchaeus / the crowd as Jesus announces that he will be going to the tax-collectors home.

- a) How do you think Zacchaeus explained these events to questioning neighbours during the coming days.
- b) What was the source of Zacchaeus’s joy?

- c) Where did Jesus first find you?
- d) How has Jesus coming brought you joy?

**Group Norms to enhance our experience**

- **Try to make regular attendance a priority..**
- **Try to stay “on topic.”** Stick to the passage being studied. Seek to find the answers in the text.
- **Everyone participates and no one dominates.** Sometimes we are so eager to share what we have learned that we don’t leave room for others. By all means participate – but leave space for others. You don’t need to verbalize your answer to every question.
- **Be sensitive to the other members of the Group.** We respect each other and can all learn from each other. There are no ‘dumb’ questions.
- **Support for one another is part of our life** as followers of Jesus.
- **Confidentiality matters:** When someone shares something of private nature, that stays in the group. We tell our own stories, if we want – not other people’s.

**Suggestions for getting the most out of a LIFE Group**

**Everyone**

- Try to read the passage we will study in advance of our meeting.
- Bring an attitude of expectancy – God wants to open his Word for you and me.... Come expecting to receive some good word.
- Stay in touch with each other during the week, where appropriate.

**People who want more....**

- Pre-read the questions and think about them a bit.
- Read more of Zephaniah if you can. Recommended translations: (ESV, NRSV, NASB, NIV, TPT are all quite similar.
- Each week, after the study, re-read the passage & questions– to reinforce what you have learned.

**The Keeners – looking for an A+**

- Read Zephaniah through in a second, different translation like “The Message” (MSG), New Living Translation (NLT)
- Check out The Bible Project – Zephaniah on YouTube.
- Make a list of questions and send them to [trinity@trinitysarnia.org](mailto:trinity@trinitysarnia.org)