

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

**Week #4. Love. Hosea 11:1-11. John 3:16**

**Question 1. (Maximum time: 5 minutes)**

- a) **Were you a compliant or a strong-willed child? Are your children like you?**

**Question 2 Hosea 11**

- a) **What images describe God's relationship to Israel. (v.1-4)**  
b) **What impact did God's Parental love have on Israel. (V.2,5-7)**

**Question 3**

God has always loved Israel as a parent loves a stubborn child and that is why he would not release Israel from the consequences of its behaviour. By stubbornly refusing God's invitation, the Northern Kingdom had sealed its doom.

- a) **What dilemma does this set up for God? (v.8-9)**  
b) **How has God shown a parent's love to you? Have you ever spurned that love?**

**Question 4. John 3:14-18**

- a) **From verses 16-18 what stands out to you about God?**  
b) **About what God wants to do?**  
c) **About God's love for the world and for you?**  
d) **When did God's Love first become 'real' to you?**

**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* – Hosea  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kE6SZ1ogOVU>
- Make a list of questions and send them to [trinity@trinitysarnia.org](mailto:trinity@trinitysarnia.org)