

# Zephaniah 3

## From Judgement to joy



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

### The text – Zephaniah 3:1-20

1. Read Zephaniah 3:1-20. In Zephaniah 3:1-8, what are the sins of Israel? Contrast the description of the people with the wonderful description of the LORD in 3:5. Discuss 3:5, one of the most lovely texts in the Scripture.
2. In 3:8 we read that “the whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger”. How do you understand God’s jealousy? God’s anger? How are these related to God’s love?
3. God’s judgement is not the end. It is for the purpose of purifying a “remnant” (3:12), that is people who truly live like God and reflect God’s character. What are these people like in 3:9-13?
4. Zephaniah 3:14-20 contain some beautiful descriptions of God’s love. Read and reflect together on 3:17. What is God like? What is God doing in this text?

### The Scriptures – Zephaniah 3:1-20 as a portion of the Scriptures

5. Jesus experienced testing and temptation throughout his life. What was his response? Read and discuss Hebrews 5:7-9.
6. Read Hebrews 12:4-14. How does God continue to discipline his people? What is the purpose of discipline in this passage?

### Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Zephaniah 3:1-20 as a portion of the Scriptures

7. How has God disciplined you throughout your life? Can you share some specific instances?
8. What does God want you to do presently to grow in holiness, in faith, hope, and love?
9. How can we pray and support you in your discipleship?

