WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

Series Title: **Summer in the Minor Prophets: Zephaniah**
Key Scripture: Zephaniah (in particular **Zephaniah 3:17**)
Recorded Sermon:
Date + Speaker: August 17, 2025 Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter:

1. Have you ever saved something/someone or revived something? Briefly share what occurred and how you felt.

During this discussion we will work our way through the short book of Zephaniah. ***The focal point is God – El Gibhor – Mighty God.*** *Zephaniah emphasized His justice AND His love. The HOPE of all people(s).*

Discussion:

2. Invite the group to dig in to Zephaniah's ministry (he was King Hezekiah's great great grandson) and King Josiah's reign. Read Zephaniah 1:1, 2 Kings 18:5-7, 2 Kings 22:1-2 and 2 Kings 23:25. Who was Zephaniah? When did he serve? What stands out to you about his heritage and the period of his ministry?
3. Zephaniah refers often to 'The Day of the Lord' (1:7, 8, 14 & 2:2). Watch this short (6minutes) video that explains this term well: https://bibleproject.com/videos/day-of-the-lord/ and invite the group to comment on what they have learned.

Diving Deeper:

4. Justice is defined as, "the constant and perpetual will to render to each his due". What characterizes judgement as just and fair or as harsh?
5. Read Zephaniah 1:12 in the NIV and NLT. How is 'complacency' described here. Why is it a sin to be repented of? In light of this, read 2:3 and discuss the roles of humility and righteousness.
6. How might addressing complacency personally and corporately today be related to revival?
7. Read Zephaniah 3:11-17 Review the 5 blessings of repentance and revival that Pastor Mark listed: (manifest) presence, power, pleasure, peace, and

praise. Invite each group member to highlight one and share how they have seen this blessing showed up in their lives.

8. Select one or more hymns/choruses to listen and worship to as a group. Consider the characteristics of our Father in Heaven as you sing with gratitude!

Additional Resources:

Tips for leaders:

Question 1: It could be as 'small' as bringing a houseplant or garden back or as something as 'big' as saving a life. Or in between – reviving a wild bird/animal…. The objective is to get the group thinking about revival and salvation.

Question 2: Consider familiarizing yourself with the background to this book. The kings listed and this prophet desired to lead the nation well but neither was able to do it perfectly. Only Jesus, our King, can lead us perfectly. Zephaniah's name means 'He whom the Lord hides'.

Question 3: It would be wise to take time to bring clarity around this term as it is used so extensively by Zephaniah.

Question 4: Holding justice/judgement and love in tension is an important task for the Christ follower. Either on its own is dangerous theology.

Question 6: Repentance is foundational to revival – 2 Chronicles 7:14, Isaiah 55:7, Matthew 4:17 and Acts 3:19-21

Question 8: Select scripturally sound music that has lyrics available to group and points to Jesus e.g. 'Holy Forever' – Chris Tomlin or 'Living Hope' – Phil Wickham



Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on emotional health and healing: El Gibhor = God Almighty. He is second place to no one. Proverbs says that 'in the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence'. To learn more about this healthy fear and it's benefits consider augmenting Pastor Mark's teaching with this sermon from John Bevere: https://youtu.be/END3mS_3jBk?si=Ul-1h6ji2ih8ZoLj

 Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on service, tasks, and activities.

 Additional resources appealing to those groups with a more studious or intellectual bent: https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-zephaniah/