



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi
Unit 8, Lesson 40

40 The Prophet Zephaniah

Lesson Aim: To find security and comfort in the knowledge of God's love for those who seek Him.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is the best choice you have ever made?

GAME: God's Delight

THE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO IS FAITHFUL

Read Worship Scripture: Psalm 117:1-2.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook.

THE WORD GOD TAKES GREAT DELIGHT IN YOU

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God sent Micah to Judea with a message of judgment and hope.

Today, we will learn about the prophet Zephaniah and the promises God has for those who seek Him. Point to Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.).

God had a clear warning, choice, and promise for Zephaniah to give to the people of Jerusalem. Point to Jerusalem. **They had ignored the warning Micah had delivered. They were still choosing to treat the poor unfairly and to worship idols.** Reveal Bible Story Scripture

Reference: Zephaniah 1:12; 2:3; 3:17-20. Find and Highlight Key Verse First: Zephaniah 3:17. Pray.

THE WAY SEEKING GOD

What does it mean to be complacent about God? (To be happy with oneself, not caring what God will do.) **What was God's WARNING?** (He will punish those who don't care about Him.)

What CHOICE did God give the people? (To seek Him.) **What does "seek God" mean to you?** To seek God is to turn away from a life focused on ourselves and to turn toward a life focused on Him. It is choosing to do things His way in every area of our lives. It means caring so deeply about God that we spend time finding out His plans, promises, guidance, and His feelings. Where can we find out more about those things? (The Bible.)

We seek God because He is very important to us. How do others show you are important to them? (They show interest in my ideas, plans, activities, and feelings; spend time with me; remember what I've said and done; celebrate good news with me; comfort me in hard times.) Brainstorm ways we can show God how important He is to us.

Have you ever felt you are failing at seeking God? Everyone who seeks God will sometimes make wrong choices in what they do or don't do. We cannot seek God without His help. If you are struggling, it is important for you to remember Zephaniah's message—God is not angry with you. In fact, you bring Him great joy! God plans to richly bless those who care deeply about Him. What are the five PROMISES found in Zephaniah 3:17? (God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with His love. He will rejoice over you with singing.) **Which is your favorite of those promises? What does that promise mean to you?**

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Over 600 years after Zephaniah told the people about God's promises, Jesus came to save us. In what ways did God's promises in Zephaniah 3:17 come true when He sent Jesus to earth? (Jesus came to be with us. He is mighty to save us. He loved and comforted the people.) **Jesus helped us understand more about the way God rejoices over us in heaven when he shared the Parable of the Lost Sheep.** Reveal Luke 15:3-7. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

Zephaniah described the choice to return to God as "seeking God." Jesus described that same choice as "repenting." What happens in heaven when someone makes that choice? (There is rejoicing in heaven over that person.)

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Zephaniah 3:17 Promises Card (or magnet)
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: God delighting to watch you do something you enjoy
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Joyful Feast Snack

GAME: Portraying Promises

CRAFT: "God is with Me" Pockets

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Passing the Light, Kneel & Say

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW