GENESIS TO REVELATION | PROPHETIC ENCOURAGEMENT

A Song of Welcome and Hope

Zephaniah 3:14-20



YOUR BIBLE READING

God’s restoring welcome includes people who have been shamed, afflicted, or driven away.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Words for a People Who Need Hope



Zephaniah 3:14-20

Zephaniah's prophetic message calls Zion, Israel, and Jerusalem to sing and rejoice. Daughter of Zion is a poetic way of speaking to the people of Jerusalem, not the name of one girl standing before the prophet. The call comes with news of God's saving presence. Judgment and the enemy's threat will not define the people's whole future. Their community is addressed as one that can receive hope after fear and shame.

The passage speaks of the Lord as the King of Israel among his people. It connects courage with that presence. The people are told not to let their hands hang weakly. This is an encouraging picture for a community whose energy has been drained by trouble. It does not mean a person with weak hands or a disability is less faithful. The message is calling the discouraged toward renewed hope, using the body's posture to express that encouragement.

The prophet describes God as mighty to save. Then the imagery becomes warmly personal: God rejoices over the people, quiets them in love, and celebrates them with singing. These are prophetic words about God's delight and care. The passage is not describing a public concert with a stage and instruments. It speaks of a relationship in which the people are more than a problem to be corrected. They are loved and welcomed.

That loving delight matters beside the earlier fear. People who have been humiliated can begin to think that shame is their permanent name. Zephaniah gives another word: the God among them is able to save and rejoices over them. The promise reaches the community's future and sense of belonging. It invites hearers to look beyond the trouble that has weakened them toward a welcome grounded in God's own faithful presence and compassionate care.

Remember: A hopeful community makes room for people who have been pushed aside.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Gathering Those Who Were Pushed Away

Zephaniah 3:14-20



God's message goes on to name people burdened by grief and reproach. Those who could not share in the appointed gatherings are not forgotten. The promise concerns a people being restored together, rather than only a few strong individuals winning a prize. Loss of belonging matters within the passage. The community's future will not be complete if it leaves the sorrowful out of the celebration and calls only the comfortable to rejoice.

The message also promises action against those who afflict the people. Oppression is not treated as a harmless misunderstanding. Alongside that justice comes the rescue of those who are lame and the gathering of those driven away. The passage gives special attention to people whose vulnerability may have made exclusion easier. Their lives are not peripheral to God's concern. The restoration includes them as people to be gathered and honored, not dismissed as an inconvenience.

Where people had carried shame, God promises praise and honor. The language looks toward a changed place among the nations. Those once scattered will be brought home and gathered, and the people will see a restoration of their fortunes. This is a prophetic promise to this community, not a timetable for calculating modern events. Its direction is clear: humiliation and separation will give way to a public recognition of worth and a renewed life together.

The reading begins with a call to sing and ends with a promise of gathering. In between, God's strength and tender delight stand beside concern for the afflicted and displaced. These themes help us understand the welcome being announced. It is more than a pleasant greeting for those already secure. It reaches those whose participation has been difficult, whose homes have been lost, and whose names have been associated with shame. Hope is pictured as a community made whole by including them.

Pause and think: What could make a welcome practical for someone who is often left out?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

A Welcome That Includes



Imagine a celebration planned only for people who can move quickly, hear every announcement, and already know where to go. Some neighbors could be left out without anyone naming the problem. This is an example for our lives, not an event in Zephaniah's prophecy. A caring welcome asks what would help each person participate, including someone using a mobility aid, someone new, or someone carrying grief.

A person does not have to become less disabled or less sad before belonging. The passage's attention to vulnerable people can help us remember that their dignity is already real. Ask rather than assume what assistance is wanted. With adult guidance, clear directions, an accessible place, or a patient companion can make welcome practical. The goal is participation with respect, not attention that embarrasses the person being helped.

God's rejoicing is a hopeful picture of delight in people who have known shame. If you feel unwanted, speak with a trusted adult who can offer care. This prophecy is not a promise that every worry vanishes immediately. It gives us language for faithful hope and a reason to build communities where those pushed aside are received with honor.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

God's promised restoration gathers vulnerable and displaced people into a community marked by love, dignity, and hope.

What could make a welcome practical for someone who is often left out?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Who receives special attention in the promise of gathering?

2. What does God’s rejoicing picture?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Notice God’s love and delight over the people.
- ☐ See vulnerable and scattered people gathered with honor.
- ☐ Hear the call to hope in God’s saving presence.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a welcoming gathering with clear, accessible paths and room for different needs.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

A hopeful community makes room for people who have been pushed aside.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Zephaniah 3:17-20

A thoughtful conversation

Identify daughter of Zion as poetic language for Jerusalem's people and the singing as an image of divine delight. This prophetic restoration promise is not a dated forecast. Discuss accessible welcome without treating disability as a failure of faith or making belonging depend on healing, cheerful feelings, or a person's usefulness.

Activity answers

1. People who are afflicted, disabled, grieving, shamed, or driven away.
2. God's loving delight in and care for the people he restores.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us welcome people with care, dignity, and room for their needs. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Zephaniah 3:14-20. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original symbolic vector artwork by DigiPick.store; a learning aid, not an additional Bible event.
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