

FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 12, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Zephaniah

BIBLE VERSE:

Zephaniah 3:17

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

God loves His people and wants them to obey Him.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God cannot ignore our sin, but He will forgive us when we repent. (YK)

Our holy God cannot ignore our sin, but He will forgive us and restore us when we repent. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Proverbs 8:6-21

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 9:10

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Proverbs 17:15-28*

MONDAY: *Proverbs 18:1-13*

TUESDAY: *Proverbs 18:14-24*

WEDNESDAY: *Proverbs 19:1-17*

THURSDAY: *Proverbs 19:18-29*

FRIDAY: *Proverbs 20:1-16*

SATURDAY: *Proverbs 20:17-30*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Zephaniah* and *Proverbs* together as a family:



- **Who was Zephaniah?** Zephaniah was a prophet to the people of Judah and Zephaniah prophesied about the same time as Jeremiah and Habakkuk, during the reign of King Josiah. Josiah led the people to destroy the places of worship to the false gods and instead to worship the one true God in renewed temple worship. Zephaniah prophesied during this time of religious resurgence but gave a dark message of God's coming judgment. For many years the people had disobeyed God, and eventually God was going to send an army against Judah. Judah needed encouragement to return to following God fully or suffer the consequences.
- **The day of the Lord.** The phrase *the day of the Lord* was a time to which Zephaniah referred as the day when God would send His judgment on the people. Zephaniah wanted to warn the people that their continued disobedience would quickly lead to this day. Zephaniah's prophecy about the day of the Lord also referred to Judah's neighbors. While Judah would have rejoiced that God was going to judge their neighbors, Zephaniah wanted the people to know that they would suffer the same fate for their unbelief and wrong living.
- **Darkness to light.** While much of Zephaniah's message was a dark message of the coming judgment, Zephaniah also shared one of the greatest prophecies of hope recorded in the Minor Prophets. While God's judgment was sure, hope existed because God had promised the people that He would always be with Judah. One day, God would bring His people back to Jerusalem where they would once again worship Him. God, who is holy, cannot ignore our sin, but graciously, God will forgive us and restore us when we repent.
- **God provides wisdom to those who seek Him.** Solomon was wiser than any other person on earth. Part of Solomon's encouragement to the people centered around God's provision for those who truly seek God. When God provides wisdom, God's wisdom can be trusted as true. As the people of Zephaniah's day needed to hear, truly seeking God would reveal God, and choosing to genuinely repent of sin would bring forgiveness of sin and wisdom from God.