

## Community Group Discussion Questions

“Enriched in Exile” Zephaniah 3:17 Oct 7/8

### Getting Started

You are not forgotten, but **avored**. You are not a failure, but **avored**.  
You are not fatherless, but **avored**. You are not finished, but **avored**.  
You are not filthiness, but **avored**. You are not forsaken, but **avored**.

As you reflect on the hardships of your life, and the depression and doubt it can cause in you, how do you experience God’s favor?

### Going Deeper

I. “The LORD (YHWH) your God”: Personal with you!

Exodus 33:19: “proclaim before you my name THE LORD”

1 Peter 2:7: “the stone that the builders rejected”

Philippians 2:11: “Jesus Christ is LORD (YHWH).”

If you were going to have a personal relationship with someone, what kinds of things would characterize that relationship? Using those same ideas, how is your relationship with God personal? Are there things lacking that you need to add?

II. “Is in your midst (center)”: Proximity in you!

1 Corinthians 6:19: “body is the temple of the Holy Spirit”

2 Corinthians 3:17 “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”

Hebrews 4:16: “with confidence draw near”

In addition to these verses, both Galatians 2:20 and Colossians 1:27 remind us that Christ lives in us. Ephesians 1:13-14 tell us we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. Since these are true, how is Christianity different from all other religions? (possible answer: in all other religions, God is outside the person, or the person believes they are God. In Christianity, the risen Christ comes to live inside each of us, supernaturally enabling us to live.)

III. “A mighty (Champion/Hero) One”: Powerful towards you!

Exodus 14:14: “The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent”

The word ‘Power’ occurs over 120 times in the New Testament, reminding us over and over again that we have God’s power living in us.

See: Colossians 1:28-29.

Describe some characteristics of a life where you have to make everything work in your own power.

Now, describe a life where God’s power works in you.

Which life would you want?

IV. “Who will save (saved, saves, saving) ”: Purpose for you!

God not only saves you from something, He saves you to something

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What do these verses tell you?

(possible answer: God does the saving, by grace, not us by our works)

Read Ephesians 2:10. What does this verse tell you?

(possible answer: My works don’t save me, but God has prepared works for me to do **after** I am saved.)

V. “He will rejoice over you with gladness (pleasing)”: Pleased by you!

Happiness-Happen-ness or circumstantial (VS) Joy-Concrete reality of something that never changes.

Matthew 3:17: “This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Psalms 16:11: “In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Many people did not grow up in a home where they felt they brought pleasure to their parents. This makes it hard for them to believe that God could be pleased with them. How can you use your words to bless others and remind them of how God sees them? Who does God want you to start blessing (children, family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors)?

VI. “He will quiet (peace) you by His love (ahabah)”: Peace holds you!

It is His love for you, which creates a peace that holds you, when chaos swirls around you

Read Philippians 4:4-7. Our lives can be overwhelmed with anxieties, worries, fears, and problems. How do these verses show you a better way to live?

VII. “He will exult over you with loud singing”: Parties over you!

The common denominator of Luke 15 in the parable of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son is in the moment when all three items were returned, there was a PARTY.

It’s always fun to watch someone be serenaded by mariachi’s when they celebrate their birthday at an upscale Mexican restaurant. However, many times the person being sung over is embarrassed and can’t wait for the singing to be over with. Why do we have such a hard time receiving praise and attention? How does it make you feel to think of God singing over you? What attitudes and perceptions of yourself need to change if it’s true that God sings over you?

WE exist to INTIATE & CELEBRATE life change IN JESUS NAME

*TAKE AWAY:* We are exiles in this world for we are not home yet, but as we wait we walk in His worth.

### **Prayer Requests**

So many of our friends don’t experience God the way we do based on Zephaniah 3:17. Pray for those who need to live in the story of Jesus.

Pray for the Church in Las Vegas to shine forth Christ’s love to that hurting city so that the tragedy becomes a turning point toward salvation for many.