



Virginia Agape International Baptist Church

Children's Cell Newsletter

October 16, 2022

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for allowing your child to join our service. I'd love for you to use this newsletter to review this week's Bible story with your child at home.

Today, we learn that **"Zephaniah Warned God's People to Repent"** (Zephaniah). *Zephaniah told the people about a special day when God will punish sin and Jesus will return. Jesus will make everything like new, and everyone who trusts in Him will be safe.*

Review the story and encourage your child to speak if they have questions. Lead your child in a prayer, thanking God for His mercy to allow us to repent and turn to Jesus. Encourage your child to remember that in Christ, we are able to please God by faith and that we no longer need to fear the judgment sin brings.

Grace and blessings in Christ,

Danny Sungshin Park

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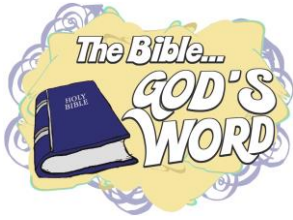
Zephaniah Warned God's People to Repent

BIBLE PASSAGE: Zephaniah

KEY PASSAGE: Acts 3:19

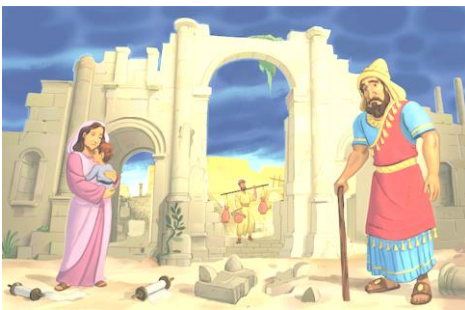
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is repentance?

Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.



The Book of Zephaniah serves as a stern rebuke of God's people and a warning regarding a failure to return to Him faithfully. It also serves as a reminder of God's expectation of holiness and a description of what that looks like when faithfully lived out among God's people.

Zephaniah 2:3 offers a call to repentance and a promise of hope for this restoration of the faithful. "Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who carry out what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be concealed on the day of the LORD's anger." Through Zephaniah, the Lord provided a glimmer of hope amidst His stern rebuke and graphic warning. But He didn't stop there. Zephaniah ended his prophecy with more than a glimmer of hope, a promise that likely warmed the weary souls of God's people.



Beginning with Zephaniah 3:9, we find a beautiful picture of God's fully-restored people. It's a remarkable image of faithfulness,

satisfaction, joy, and mutual benefit that ignites a desire for this reality. It may even ignite in the reader a desire for what could be called "a return to Eden."



Zephaniah 3 describes an environment of pure speech where all are calling on the name of the Lord. There is also painted a picture of generosity, humility, meekness, joy, singing, celebration, healing, praise, and fortune. Zephaniah also describes an end to failures, arrogance, rebellion, dispersion, lies, wrongdoing, and fear. Following a terrifying warning for God's people to repent, this wonderful image of restoration leaves the reader with great hope.

The Bible is full of stern reminders of God's expectation of holiness among His people, but it is always chased by a beautiful and redemptive reminder of His promise to restore all things and the hope that this promise offers to those who repent of their wicked ways and hope in Christ.

Spend some time today asking God to work out the message of Zephaniah's prophecy in your own heart, to confront you with His holiness and a rebuke of the sin in your life, and to follow that with a reminder of the hope that belongs to all who trust in Christ for the restoration of their soul—and ultimately, all things in the heavens and the earth.



**"Repent therefore, and turn back,
that your sins may be blotted out."**

Acts 3:19



REMINDER

[Important Notice]

- ✓ Children's cell worship service will start at 12:00 noon.
- ✓ **Please encourage and help your child to read and write the Bible. The next Bible quiz will be from Judges 19.**
- ✓ Hallelujah Night (Games for Families) is on Oct. 31 (Mon.)
- ✓ Children's Cell's Bible-writing awards will be during the 22nd VAIBC Anniversary Service on November 13.
- ✓ **Please let your child bring their Bible writing notebooks by November 6 to check their scores.**
- ✓ Remind your children **not to play with electronic devices or toys** such as smartphones or dolls, during our service.
- ✓ Our prayer is that the children's time spent in our church would encourage them to trust Christ as Savior, to submit to Him, and to live out the Gospel wherever they are.



"Jonah Warned of God's Judgment" (Jonah)



THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT
FOR KIDS