

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, December 15, 2024 (Advent 3)

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Discussion Starters

1. What has God promised to do for His people? What reason(s) do they have to “be glad and rejoice?”
2. Which of these actions by God do you believe would make the people who first heard this prophecy the most glad? Which one would make you the most glad? Try thinking about this reading from a different perspective (for example, a Christian facing persecution or a Christian living in poverty). Which one might make them the most glad?

Philippians 4:4-7

Discussion Starters

1. What is the Apostle Paul's plan for dealing with worry?
2. Is it possible to “rejoice in the Lord always?” Why or why not?
3. What is the difference between the different words used in verse 6 for prayer (prayer, petition, thanksgiving, present your requests)?
4. How would you describe the “peace of God” to someone who has never gone to church?

Luke 3:7-18

Discussion Starters

1. How would you describe John's message and style? Why would anyone go out of their way to hear him preach?
2. What is radical about John's message? Is he advocating social upheaval or inner transformation?
3. What do the “root” and “fruit” signify? What do the “wheat” and “chaff” signify?
4. Why is John confused with the Christ? How does he contrast himself and his ministry?
5. What does it mean to “produce fruit in keeping with repentance?”

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?