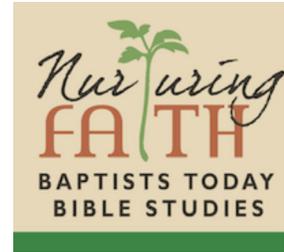


Youth Teaching Resources

December 13, 2015



Hope Waits

A Time for Praise — Luke 1:68-79

A Time for Joy — Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Time for Peace — Micah 5:2-5a

Season of Christmas

A Time for Growth — 1 Samuel 2:18-26

www.baptiststoday.org

Subscribe to *Baptists Today* to access the core Bible content for this lesson.

www.nurturingfaith.net

Find links and videos related to this lesson.

A Time for Joy

Zephaniah 3:14-20

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

TEACHER PREPARATION: YOUTH AND THIS LESSON

Celebrate with your students! Our students go through so much, we need to celebrate them whenever we can. If you ask your students how much pressure they feel they are under or how bogged down they are, don't be surprised. There is a growing pressure to never fail, so when something good happens, it seems to be a relief instead of a time for celebration. There are stories throughout scripture of the celebrations that occur when God rescues the people or when someone comes back to God. Take time to celebrate the successes that your students have!

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

As your students enter, form groups of three or four and challenge them to plan the best party that they can think of. Have them plan everything from what the party is for, to who is invited, the decorations that will be used, and what will happen. When they have had time to plan their party, have them share their party ideas with the group. After all the groups have had an opportunity to share, facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What was your favorite aspect of your party?
- 2) What did you hear from someone else's party planning that you would want to incorporate into your party?
- 3) How did you decide what to celebrate?
- 4) How much time do you take to celebrate in your everyday life? Why don't you celebrate more often?
- 5) What influence does your faith have on how you celebrate?

Information

As you transition into the next section of this session, you may want to provide some of the background to Zephaniah included in THE BIBLE LESSON, printed in *Baptists Today*.. Then choose one of the students to read Zephaniah 3:14-20. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text.

When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) When you hear “Day of the Lord” what images come to your mind? Are they positive or negative images? What images did the prophets have of the “Day of the Lord”?
- 2) What will be happening to the people of God when they sing this song of joy from Zephaniah?
- 3) What will God do during this time of joy?
- 4) What image of God does Zephaniah portray in this song of joy?
- 5) Does Zephaniah say the people will find God or that God will find the people? Why does it matter? What is the difference between the two options?

If your group would like to continue their discussion on this passage, share some of the insights provided in “Digging Deeper” and “The Hardest Question” (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide).

Transformation

Conclude your session by showing the following clip “Celebration Time!” from *AFV*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What was your favorite reaction?
- 2) What are some of your favorite memories of someone being excited or someone’s reaction to winning something?
- 3) The scripture passage for this session was about the joy people would have when God found them. When has there been a time in your life when you have felt the presence of God? What emotions did you have?
- 4) How can you bring joy to the life of other people?

Close with a prayer of joy where students can share aloud the times when they have felt God in their life.