

# Devotional Calendar

## MAY 2020

### Unit III. Called to God's Work of Justice

**3rd**

**Meditate:** Psalm 47

**Listen:** "Mighty God" by Deitrick Haddon

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OneDIq65eNg)

[watch?v=OneDIq65eNg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OneDIq65eNg)

**Pray:** Tell the Lord that He Is an Awesome King and that You Praise His Holy Name



**10th**

**Meditate:** Zephaniah 8:18-23

**Listen:** "Change Me" by Tamela Mann

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlgLJEHF30k)

[watch?v=dlgLJEHF30k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlgLJEHF30k)

**Pray:** Let the Lord Know that You Give Him Your Hands to Use to Do His Holy Will



### How to Do a Devotional

Daily devotionals are important to help you grow in your relationship with God. Pray, meditate, and read the Word of God, and you will grow spiritually. Devote ten minutes at the beginning of your day to clear your mind and heart and prepare to receive God. Daily devotions will prepare you for any obstacles that may come your way. Take time each morning to hear from God. Even Jesus used time in the morning to be with God. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35, NIV).

**17th**

**Meditate:** Psalm 86:1-13

**Listen:** "Forgive Me, Lord (It's Me Again)" by J. Moss

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDwXg7nVlyk)

[watch?v=YDwXg7nVlyk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDwXg7nVlyk)

**Pray:** Ask the Father to Search You and to Forgive You



**24th**

**Meditate:** Psalm 72:1-17

**Listen:** "Take Away" by Yolanda Adams

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afJ8uOkCFLs)

[watch?v=afJ8uOkCFLs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afJ8uOkCFLs)

**Pray:** Plead with the Lord to Give You a Heart of Compassion for Others



**31st**

**Meditate:** Deuteronomy 8:11-20

**Listen:** "We Offer Praise" by Rodnie Bryant and the Christian Community Mass Choir

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7inK80mS64)

[watch?v=j7inK80mS64](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7inK80mS64)

**Pray:** Tell the Lord that You Will Never Forget His Goodness and Mercy



Background Scripture: Zephaniah 3 • Print Passage: Zephaniah 3:14-20

**KEY VERSE:** "At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD. (Zephaniah 3:20)



The Marshall Middle School Choir was gearing up for the end-of-school celebration trip to Disneyland in California. Throughout the school year, the choir participated in different choir competitions across the state. Sasha was only able to attend four of the eight trips, because her family did not have the money. In the past, Sasha was able to raise money through school-sponsored fund-raisers to get money for the trips. The end-of-school trip was strictly for fun, so each student had to come up with his or her own money. As an eighth grader, Sasha will have to say goodbye to some of her friends who would be going to different high schools next year. The celebration trip will be their last opportunity to hang out and have fun together. Sasha was sad because she knew she would not be able to come up with enough money for the trip. Despite being disappointed, Sasha kept a positive attitude and tried not to let her



true feelings show about missing the trip.

Unexpectedly, during the last class period of the day, Sasha and three other choir students were called to the office. One of the choir parents informed the students that all of them would be able to go on the celebration trip to Disneyland—free of charge. The parent discussed how the choir director and all parents who were able donated money

to make sure every choir student in good standing could go on the celebration trip. Sasha and the other students were so excited to receive the good news. In an instant, Sasha's disappointment and sadness turned to joy and happiness because of the kind generosity of the choir parents.

Are you able to keep the faith and display a positive attitude, even when things may not go the way you planned?



**WORD UP**

### Zephaniah 3:14-20

**14** Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

**15** The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. **16** On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. **17** The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will

take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." **18** "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. **19** At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. **20** At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.





Zephaniah is the biblical character featured in today's lesson. God used Zephaniah to warn the people of Judah that if they refused to repent, the entire nation, including Jerusalem, would be lost. Zephaniah expressed concern because God's own people were guilty of committing the same sin as their pagan neighbors. The people refused all correction, and because of their disobedience, Zephaniah delivered a message of judgment.

In chapter 3, Zephaniah's message shifts from one of doom and gloom to a message of hope. The city of Jerusalem is presented as a daughter

who needs protection. Zephaniah declared that God would bring salvation and deliverance to all who are faithful to Him. God is presented as a king and warrior who protects and rescues the daughter (Jerusalem).

Zephaniah encourages the people to rejoice because the Lord will stop the hand of judgment, disperse Israel's enemies, and live among the people. Singing and rejoicing are the response to God's help; God, the warrior, will also sing and rejoice. This message of hope in chapter 3 is quite different from the warnings of destruction that Zephaniah spoke to the people in chapters 1 and 2. Zephaniah speaks of a new day when God will restore hope to the nation and bless His people.

## INSIDE OUT

Have you ever felt like giving up because problems seemed to keep getting worse, instead of getting better? Why is it important to have hope when you are going through difficult times? It is during these times that you must believe that God can turn your situation around. Sometimes, God uses difficult circumstances to lead us to repent and return to Him. No matter how things seem to be going in your life, commit to follow God and trust Him to bring you safely through every difficult situation.

## There's an App for That!

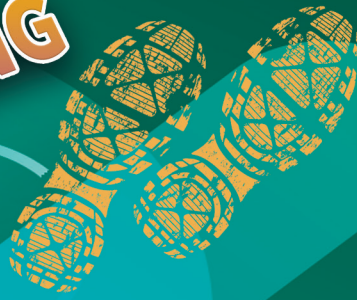
One of the greatest challenges for Christians is to stay connected to God when life's disappointments arise. People often look for quick answers to ease their frustration and discomfort instead of waiting for God to show them the right solution. Can you think of ways to increase your patience as you wait on God to reveal His will to you regarding a challenge or problem? Ask someone you know who is strong in his or her faith to share how they stay encouraged while waiting for God's direction. Pray and ask God to build your faith to trust Him more.



## Walk Out

It is not easy to stay persistent in your faith when situations appear to be hopeless. In times of despair, know that things can always get better. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. So, look to God when you feel hopeless and never doubt God's love, care, and concern for you.

# STEPPING OUT!



Sometimes, youth turn to drugs, alcohol, risky sexual behaviors, and even self-harm (e.g., suicide, self-mutilation, etc.) when they feel hopeless and alone. This week, you are challenged to pray every day and ask God to remember those who are living in a state of hopelessness. God receives the genuine prayers of His people. Be sincere in asking and trust that God hears your prayers.

## It's Game Time!

Pay close attention to this week's Scripture passage and see if you can recognize and unscramble the scrambled-up key words below.

1. ETAHRG \_\_\_\_\_
2. RONEWDEN \_\_\_\_\_
3. SRPIDAE \_\_\_\_\_
4. EERORTS \_\_\_\_\_
5. TEFNORSU \_\_\_\_\_

## Media Mission

The words *victory* and *winning* are used by many gospel artists as encouraging themes reflected in their music. Do you have a favorite gospel song that emphasizes how believers are victorious and winners in Christ Jesus? Search YouTube or other music sites for a song that expresses victory and/or winning for Christian believers.