



Zephaniah 3:9–20

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Zephaniah 3:17

MEMORY VERSE

“The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.” Zephaniah 3:17

Being a parent is all about mirroring the love of God. As such, parents must always seek to practice the things God did in His Word. Since God is a God of restoration, you must also be parents of restoration.

Read Zephaniah 3:9–20. Zephaniah prophesied to Israel during a time of rebellion and idolatry. Israel looked like every other nation around it and did not see any problem with that. They had begun pagan practices, some even as severe as infant sacrifices. They no longer sought God.

Through Zephaniah, God got their attention. In the first two and a half chapters of the Book of Zephaniah, God pledged to judge Israel if they continued on their path.

Then, beginning in 3:9, God began to unfold a beautiful picture of restoration.

Restoration is a process of change that God initiates to bring His people back into a right relationship with Him. He promised to gather Israel, restore them, purify their lips, humble them, give them peace, and make them the nation He had intended them to be.

Pray that you would lead your family to restore one another in the face of failures big and small. As you mirror God’s love and restoration in this way, you will send a powerful message to lost people all around you. Be quick to forgive your children, knowing that restoration brings change, not the other way around.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, family members spread a few magazines on the floor with scissors, a poster board, and some glue sticks. The family cuts out things that would be out of place in your home and glues them on the poster (for example: a supermodel, a sports team, or an elephant). Next, the family discusses why these things would be out of place.

Explore . . .

First, a family member reads Ephesians 4:17–24. Next, the family discusses: **Those of us that are saved are "new." How then can we fall back to a place where we need to be restored?** (*The flesh battles against the spirit. We have to take hold of our fleshly desires and ask for God's restoration every day.*) Then, a family member reads: **Just like the things we cut out of the magazines, we are out of place. This is not our home, so we should not look "at home" here. We have to be holy and set apart for a purpose, just like Paul writes in Ephesians 4.** Finally, the family considers any ways you look more like the world than like Christians.

Transform . . .

A family member reads: **If we claim Christ as our Savior, we should be putting off the behavior and habits of the old self who died when we were saved.** As a family, consider: **Is there a part of my old life that I am not fully giving up? Are there aspects of the former me that I hold onto instead of casting off?**

Pray together for each other's specific needs regarding God's restoration process in each of you.