

ENOUGH

WEEK S1

**WHEN LIFE IS
OVERWHELMING
AND JOYLESS,
- GOD IS STILL -
REJOICING
OVER YOU!**

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."

NOTES: _____



There's more than enough
joy in human life!

Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

CONNECT

with self and others:

1. How would you define joy?
2. Would you say there is more than enough joy in human life? Why or why not?

ENGAGE

the Word.

One of my favorite books, *The Road Less Traveled*, begins with these words, "Life is difficult." Coming back from winter break, I assume many things were happy about the break, but perhaps many things come into perspective about the difficulties of life. Were your Fall grades not what you wanted them to be? Did your family not get along like you had hoped? Is your financial status not what you would like it to be? Are your relationships not as healthy as you thought? Are you overwhelmed and joyless already on the first week of the semester?

The people of God in the year 600 B.C. were in a difficult spot. God was using Zephaniah to let them know that because of their wicked life and a lack of repentance of their sins, their city of Jerusalem would be destroyed, and they would be carted off to Babylon. Yet, if they repent and turn back to God, they will return to the promised land and be restored.



READ
Zephaniah 3:14-17



Isarel would be saved and returned to the land of Jerusalem and Judah. A remnant of people that survived would have been saved. Zephaniah urges God's people to fear no evil but instead to rejoice over their coming salvation. Fear may hinder us from witnessing of God's love and mercy; how wrong and foolish that would be! God has redeemed us in Christ. He will always be with us. In fact, amid our unrepentance and sinful choices, He takes great delight in pursuing us with His grace. In our repentance, He takes great delight to even rejoice over us in His own song over the body of Christ (v.17). I am not sure what that song sounds like or the particular lyrics, but may it bring you joy today to know that God loves you, sings over us as His people, and rejoices that we are His no matter how difficult life might get this semester. There is more than enough joy in human life, no matter what you might be facing.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. How do you typically respond to difficult life situations? How do you turn to God or turn to other methods of coping?
2. Zephaniah called the people of God to repentance. Is there anything specific you or your community needs to repent or turn away from?
3. How do you feel when you read that "in God's love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing"(v17)?



SHARE

Apply to your life:

One way to choose joy is to appreciate what God is up to. What is one way to return thanks to God for something that God is up to in your life right now?

PRAYER:

Lord, make me a bold witness of Your saving power during my difficulties and being overwhelmed. May the Spirit's gift of joy be mine and ours this semester, day by day, in Jesus' name, Amen.

NOTES:

Lined area for taking notes.



QUESTIONS:

Page 1

- 1. How would you define joy?
2. Would you say there is more than enough joy in human life? Why or why not?

Page 2

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