DISCUSSION GUIDE

BELOVED IS WHERE WE BEGIN



A Self-Paced Guided Retreat
with Zephaniah 3:17

Shaleen Camery-Hoggatt

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING FORMAT

This Leader's Guide provides a suggested structure for your group discussions as well as icebreaker questions for each chapter. It presupposes the participants have read the chapters and spent time with the practices prior to the discussions. Discussion One is to follow the reading and experience of Chapters 1 & 2, Discussion Two is to follow the reading and experience of Chapters 3 & 4, Discussion Three is to follow the reading and experience of Chapter 5 and so on as listed in the Table of Contents. Be sure to inform participants of the assigned reading and related practices prior to each meeting.

All of these materials are available in the book itself as well. Reflection questions are in the "Knowing Through Prayer & Contemplative Practices" sections and may be used as discussion questions. Icebreaker questions and this format are in Appendix E. This booklet simply reformats them by chapter for each group meeting.

If you lead a group that already meets regularly, you will no doubt know best how to shape group sessions in a way that fits your established routine, timeframe, needs, and purpose by using the materials in each chapter. If you meet weekly, you may wish to discuss the "Knowing through Scripture" portion one week and the "Knowing Through Prayer and Contemplative Practices," the following week, alternating to give your participants more time for reading and practicing and meeting for shorter discussions. Choose what works best for your group. If you would like a free consultation with the author to discuss your group's timeline plans, set up an appointment by emailing belovediswherewebegin@gmail.com

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR GROUP DISCUSSION MEETINGS

1. **Icebreaker question**

2. **Opening:** Read aloud the **Epigraph** (quote, poem, scriptures, or prayer) at the beginning of the chapter.

3. **Review Section A – Knowing through Scripture**
   Moving through the pages of the chapter, share the **highlights, notes, and favorite quotes**. If the group is large or time is limited, you may wish to identify the one, two, or three selections that most affected you, or divide into pairs, triads, or small groups for this portion. In sharing with the group, be sure to tell them how you responded to these highlights, notes, and quotes.

   The following questions may assist you in your sharing time.
   - Was there something you were encountering for the first time?
   - What caught your attention?
   - What challenged you?
   - What is landing with you?

- What have you heard?
    - What whispers to you at this time?
    - What is loud and clear?
- What do you sense needs birthing in you?
- To what are you saying yes?

4. **Review Section B – Knowing through Prayer & Contemplative Practices**
    - Discuss the **Reflection Questions** provided in the chapter. Is there anything you might share with us about what came to mind in spending time with the reflection questions in this chapter or in reviewing and discussing them now?
    - Share your **experience of the practices**. What was particularly meaningful? Share any practice you do or did this past week that deepened your awareness of God or of the specific attribute described in this chapter.
    - Consider sharing together in some of the spiritual practices. For example, it can be meaningful to experience *Imaginative Prayer Meditation* (Chapter 4), *lectio divina* (Chapter 5), *visio divina* (Chapter 6 & Appendix C), or *whipped cream exercise* (Chapter 7) in community. It can also work well to create a contemplative collage (Appendix A), do rock painting (Appendix B), or practice writing prayerful poetry (Appendix D) as a group and then share your creations with each other. You might consider sharing songs from the music playlist (or your own playlist) during some group meetings.

5. **Looking back at the chapter as a whole & looking forward to implementing in real life…**
    - What has been the most important gift or invitation you have received from this section of the retreat and this conversation about it?
    - How will you respond?
    - Are there ways you may support each other in taking these next steps?

6. **Close your gathering with prayer**s for one another, perhaps ending the prayer time with one of the prayers found in the chapter you've just discussed.

DISCUSSION ONE

CHAPTER 1: YOU ARE BELOVED
AND
CHAPTER 2: BELOVED IS WHERE WE BEGIN: A GUIDED CONTEMPLATIVE EXPERIENCE

ASSIGNED READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO THIS MEETING

Chapters 1 & 2
Encourage participants to also read "front pages"—
Foreword, Preface, Introduction, and How to Use This Book

ICEBREAKER

Briefly describe a person who loved you well when you were a child.

OPENING READING

Read aloud poem: Beloved Is Where We Begin, Pgs. 3, 4

REVIEW CHAPTER 1
SECTION A – KNOWING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Moving through the pages of the chapter, share with each other your highlights, notes, and favorite quotes. If the group is large or time is limited, you may wish to identify the one, two, or three selections that most affected you. In sharing with the group, be sure to tell them how you responded.

- Was there something you were encountering for the first time?
- What caught your attention?
- What challenged you?
- What is landing with you?
- What have you heard?
    - What whispers to you at this time?
    - What is loud and clear?
- What do you sense needs birthing in you?
- To what are you saying yes?

REVIEW CHAPTER 2
SECTION B – KNOWING THROUGH PRAYER & CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Share about your experience of the practices in Chapter 2.

- What was particularly meaningful?

- What deepened your awareness of God or God's love for you?
- Consider sharing together in some of the spiritual practices such as creating a contemplative collage (Appendix A), rock painting (Appendix B), writing
- prayerful poetry (Appendix D) or listening to songs from the music playlist (or your own playlist).

LOOKING BACK AT PART I AS A WHOLE
AND LOOKING FORWARD TO IMPLEMENTING IN REAL LIFE…

- What has been the most important gift or invitation you have received from this section of the retreat and this conversation about it?
- How will you respond?
- Are there ways you may support each other in taking these next steps?

PRAYER

Close your gathering with prayers for one another, perhaps ending the prayer time with one of the prayers found in the chapters you've just discussed (Pg. 67).

Embodied Love Prayer

Hold closed hands together, knuckles to knuckles in a "fist bump."

I am anchored by love.

Raise open hands, elbows bent, hands above shoulders.

I am surrendered to love.

Interlace fingers clasping both hands in front of body.

I am connected with love.

Open both palms and hold out as if to receive a gift.

I am open to love.

Amen.

ASSIGN READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING
Preview of Zephaniah 3:17 and Chapters 3 & 4

DISCUSSION TWO

CHAPTER 3: ZEPHANIAH 3:17: BACKGROUND & CONTEXT
AND
CHAPTER 4: THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU

ASSIGNED READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO THIS MEETING
Preview of Zephaniah 3:17 and Chapters 3 & 4

ICEBREAKERS

1. Where are you from and what language did you speak in your family of origin?
2. If you are able to create or buy addition/subtraction flashcards like the ones used in elementary school math classes, pass them out. If not, simply imagine them for this time of sharing. Briefly answer with ***one*** word, phrase or sentence:
   1. **Addition flashcard:** What needs to be added if you want to be a good listener--fully present, totally with another person?
   2. **Subtraction flashcard**: What needs to be subtracted if you want to be a good listener--fully present, totally with another person?

OPENING READING
Read aloud scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 118:5, John 8:36, Pg. 74
Opening Prayer, Pg. 82.

REVIEW SECTION A – KNOWING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Moving through the pages of Chapters 3 & 4, share with each other your highlights, notes, and favorite quotes. If the group is large or time is limited, you may wish to identify the one, two, or three selections that most affected you. In sharing with the group, be sure to tell them how you responded.

- Was there something you were encountering for the first time?
- What caught your attention?
- What challenged you?
- What is landing with you?
- What have you heard?
  - What whispers to you at this time?
  - What is loud and clear?
- What do you sense needs birthing in you?
- To what are you saying yes?

REVIEW SECTION B
KNOWING THROUGH PRAYER & CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Discuss the Reflection Questions (pages 98-100).

1. I love the list of synonyms found in the thesaurus for *your*: being attached, a part of, akin, in accord with, fitting, linked, related, belonging, in relationship, allied, family, having a place. As you read that list as applied to God, what feelings surface for you?



2. I love the list of synonyms found in the thesaurus for *with you*: alongside, amidst, beside, for, near, accompanying you, being a companion to you. As you read that list as applied to God, what feelings surface for you?



3. What feelings, responses, thoughts do you notice as you marinate in these words—The Lord your God is with you?
4. Which of the aspects of God's presence described in this chapter stands out for you today? Why?
5. How might you rest deeply into God's presence?
6. How might that impact you and bring about transformation or change in your life?
7. Are there practices to which you feel invited that would increase your awareness of God's presence and increase your capacity to be present to God?
8. What is the takeaway that you want to carry forward? How might you deepen this experience?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Share about your experience of the practices in Chapter 4.

- What was particularly meaningful?
- What deepened your awareness of God or God's love for you?
- Consider sharing together in some of the spiritual practices such as creating a contemplative collage (Appendix A), rock painting (Appendix B), writing prayerful poetry (Appendix D), or listening to songs from the music playlist (or your own playlist).

LOOKING BACK AT CHAPTERS 3 & 4
AND LOOKING FORWARD TO IMPLEMENTING IN REAL LIFE…

- What has been the most important gift or invitation you have received from these chapters and today's conversation about them?
- How will you respond?
- Are there ways you may support each other in taking these next steps?

PRAYER
Close your gathering with prayers for one another, perhaps ending the prayer time with one of the prayers found in the chapters you've just discussed (Pg. 79).

Beloved,
Thank you for living in our midst,
for being here with us, a mighty savior.
We delight in you, amazed that you delight in us.
We are grateful that you quiet our fears with your love.
We rejoice over you with songs of gratitude
and hearts overflowing with thanksgiving.
Amen.

ASSIGN READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING
Chapter 5

DISCUSSION THREE

CHAPTER 5: A MIGHTY GOD TO SAVE

ASSIGNED READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO THIS MEETING
Chapters 5

ICEBREAKER
Briefly answer with *one* word, phrase or sentence: If you were a superhero, what would be your superpower?

OPENING READING
Read aloud prayer: Remind Me Of Your Steady Power, Pg. 108

REVIEW SECTION A – KNOWING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Moving through the pages of Chapter 5, share with each other your highlights, notes, and favorite quotes. If the group is large or time is limited, you may wish to identify the one, two, or three selections that most affected you. In sharing with the group, be sure to tell them how you responded.

- Was there something you were encountering for the first time?
- What caught your attention?
- What challenged you?
- What is landing with you?
- What have you heard?
    - What whispers to you at this time?
    - What is loud and clear?
- What do you sense needs birthing in you?
- To what are you saying yes?

REVIEW SECTION B
KNOWING THROUGH PRAYER & CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Discuss the Reflection Questions (pages 122-124).

1. I love the list of synonyms found in the thesaurus for *mighty*: strong, powerful, omnipotent, stalwart, magnificent, great, extraordinary, grand, heroic. As you read that list as applied to God, what feelings surface for you?



2. I love the list of synonyms found in the thesaurus for *save*: rescue, deliver, recover, salvage, defend, emancipate, liberate, set free, ransom, redeem, unchain, unshackle, conserve, shield, maintain, preserve, guard, sustain, defend, safeguard, and phrases such as "get off the hook," "give a break," "pull out of the fire," "save one's neck," "keep safe," "look after." As you read that list as applied to God, what feelings surface for you?



3. From what do you need to be saved today?
   Grief? loss? a broken heart? illness? fear? loneliness? misunderstanding? doubt? pain? self-criticism or self-judgment? want? discouragement or depression? anxiety or stress? hurry? despair?
4. In what area of your life do you need divine wisdom, love, power, and strength to come to bear on your circumstances, to save, to heal, to meet your need(s)?
5. How might you receive God's wise, loving, strong power to bring wholeness? To restore and renew you?
6. What is the takeaway that you want to carry forward? How might you deepen this experience?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Share about your experience of the practices in Chapter 5.

- What was particularly meaningful?
- What deepened your awareness of God or God's love for you?
- Consider sharing together in some of the spiritual practices such as creating a contemplative collage (Appendix A), rock painting (Appendix B), writing
- prayerful poetry (Appendix D) or listening to songs from the music playlist (or your own playlist).

LOOKING BACK AT CHAPTER 5 AS A WHOLE
AND LOOKING FORWARD TO IMPLEMENTING IN REAL LIFE…

- What has been the most important gift or invitation you have received from this section of the retreat and this conversation about it?
- How will you respond?
- Are there ways you may support each other in taking these next steps?

PRAYER
Close your gathering with prayers for one another.

ASSIGN READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING
Psalm 107:1-32, 35-38, 41-43—Pgs. 135-137 and Chapter 6

DISCUSSION FOUR

CHAPTER 6: GOD WILL QUIET YOU WITH LOVE

ASSIGNED READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO THIS MEETING
Psalm 107:1-32, 35-38, 41-43—Pgs. 135-137 and Chapter 6

ICEBREAKERS
1. Describe briefly (with *one* word, phrase or sentence) a positive experience of quiet, silence, calming or quieting.
2. Do you have an irrational fear or phobia? Spiders? Dental work? Flying? Small enclosed spaces? Heights? Public speaking? Snakes? Clowns? Roller coasters? Needles? Other???

OPENING READING
Read aloud prayer: Calm Me Into A Quietness, Pg. 138

REVIEW SECTION A – KNOWING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Moving through the pages of Chapter 6, share with each other your highlights, notes, and favorite quotes. If the group is large or time is limited, you may wish to identify the one, two, or three selections that most affected you. In sharing with the group, be sure to tell them how you responded.

- Was there something you were encountering for the first time?
- What caught your attention?
- What challenged you?
- What is landing with you?
- What have you heard?
    - What whispers to you at this time?
    - What is loud and clear?
- What do you sense needs birthing in you?
- To what are you saying yes?

REVIEW SECTION B
KNOWING THROUGH PRAYER & CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Discuss the Reflection Questions (pages 148-150).

1. Spend time looking at each of the synonyms for quiet in this graphic and ask—
    a. Where in your life do you need this specific aspect of being quieted?
    b. Which of these things is God bringing to you today?
    c. Where do you need the gift of God quieting you?
    d. What needs to be quieted in you?



2. Is there a way you might be a conduit for God's love such that your presence is redemptive and quieting in the lives of others?
3. Is there an area of your life where you need to listen to the reassuring words of Jesus, "Be not afraid. Peace! It is I," to remind you that your God is with you, quieting you with love, the Risen Living Christ is with you, working to transform you, your life, and your faith?
4. What is the takeaway that you want to carry forward? How might you deepen this experience?

Share about your experience of the practices in Chapter 6.

- What was particularly meaningful?
- What deepened your awareness of God or God's love for you?
- Consider sharing together in some of the spiritual practices such as creating a contemplative collage (Appendix A), rock painting (Appendix B), writing
- prayerful poetry (Appendix D) or listening to songs from the music playlist (or your own playlist).

LOOKING BACK AT CHAPTER 6 AS A WHOLE
AND LOOKING FORWARD TO IMPLEMENTING IN REAL LIFE…

- What has been the most important gift or invitation you have received from this section of the retreat and this conversation about it?
- How will you respond?
- Are there ways you may support each other in taking these next steps?

PRAYER
Close your gathering with prayers for one another, perhaps ending the prayer time with one of the prayers found in the chapter you've just discussed (Pgs. 173-174).

ASSIGN READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING
Chapter 7 and Precis/Learning By Heart

DISCUSSION FIVE

CHAPTER 7: GOD TAKES DELIGHT IN YOU AND SINGS OVER YOU WITH JOY

ASSIGNED READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO THIS MEETING
Chapter 7 and Precis/Learning by Heart

ICEBREAKER
Briefly describe a time when you experienced great joy that caused you to sing or dance or do some other wordless expression of delight.

OPENING READING
Read aloud Kristen E. Vincent quote: God takes great delight in you, pg. 176

REVIEW SECTION A – KNOWING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Moving through the pages of the Precis/Learning by Heart and Chapter 7, share with each other your highlights, notes, and favorite quotes. If the group is large or time is limited, you may wish to identify the one, two, or three selections that most affected you. In sharing with the group, be sure to tell them how you responded.

- Was there something you were encountering for the first time?
- What caught your attention?
- What challenged you?
- What is landing with you?
- What have you heard?
    - What whispers to you at this time?
    - What is loud and clear?
- What do you sense needs birthing in you?
- To what are you saying yes?

REVIEW SECTION B
KNOWING THROUGH PRAYER & CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Discuss the Reflection Questions (pages 190-194).

1. I love the list of synonyms found in the thesaurus for *delight*: to be content, to enjoy, to be happy with, to feel glee, to have joy, pleasure, satisfaction, to relish, be enraptured, jubilate, be gladdened, "go over big," "hit the spot," to be "tickled pink." As you read that list as applying to how God feels about you, what feelings surface for you?



2. I love the list of synonyms found in the thesaurus for *rejoice*: exult, celebrate, delight, enjoy, be glad, "jump for joy!" As you read that list as applied to how God feels about you, what feelings surface for you?



3. What about you delights God? What about you brings joy to God's heart? What about you gives God joy?
4. What are you choosing that gives God joy?
5. What do you enjoy doing that causes you to sense God's pleasure?
6. Are there ways you are being invited to acknowledge God's delight in you? To receive that delight? To lean into and experience that delight? To join in that delight?

7. Although it is quite clear that God delights in you for *who you are* rather than what you do, I'd like to encourage you to also focus on your gifts, your talents, your strengths, those things you do well, instead of beating up on yourself for the things you've failed to do or don't do well, the ways you might think you don't "measure up" in comparison to some "ideal." Perhaps this week it would be helpful if you made a list. Then read it each morning for a week, along with your written responses to the previous questions above, as an affirmation and reminder of some of the ways God sees you, some of the specific ways you fulfill the purpose and vision for which God created you.
8. As you ponder the idea of God making music to express deep delight in you—God's rejoicing over you with song—does it evoke a response from you?
    a. Is there a way you might "make a joyful noise unto the Lord"[i] as your response? (You may want to revisit some of the music that was meaningful to you in Chapter 2; some of those songs are reprised on the next few pages.)
    b. Describe a time when you baltered or observed someone else balter. How did you feel?
    c. Do you want to spontaneously dance (or balter) a response?
    d. What does it feel like to imagine God dancing over you—baltering—with joy, rejoicing over you in song?
    e. Is there something playful or childlike that would be a way of expressing your joy—blowing bubbles, swinging at a local playground, going for a bike ride, splashing in water?
    f. Since joy is so often associated with connection, is there someone with whom you'd like to share this deep delight? Or perhaps you'd like to go for a walk out in nature to connect with beauty, wonder, awe, and the Maker of it all?
9. What is the takeaway that you want to carry forward? How might you deepen this experience?

Share about your experience of the practices in Chapter 7.

- What was particularly meaningful?
- What deepened your awareness of God or God's love for you?
- Consider sharing together in some of the spiritual practices such as creating a contemplative collage (Appendix A), rock painting (Appendix B), writing prayerful poetry (Appendix D) or listening to songs from the music playlist (or your own playlist).

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LOOKING BACK AT CHAPTER 7 AS A WHOLE
AND LOOKING FORWARD TO IMPLEMENTING IN REAL LIFE…

- What has been the most important gift or invitation you have received from this section of the retreat and this conversation about it?
- How will you respond?
- Are there ways you may support each other in taking these next steps?

PRAYER

Close your gathering with prayers for one another, perhaps ending the prayer time with one of the prayers found in the chapter you've just discussed (Pg. 202).

My Lord and my God, you are here, present with me,
Your power is at work in me to make me whole.
I read in your word that you delight in me
And rejoice over me with gladness and singing.
I can scarcely take it in!
Oh how I love the ways your love quiets me.
Thank you for these amazing gifts
of presence, power, delight, and love.
Amen!

ASSIGN READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING

Chapter 8 and Afterword

DISCUSSION SIX

PART III: **LIVING BELOVED:** *AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, LOVE ONE ANOTHER*
CHAPTER 8: **SACRED INVITATIONS AND**
AFTERWORD: **RETREAT BENEDICTION**:
GO IN PEACE TO LOVE & SERVE THE LORD

ASSIGNED READING AND PRACTICES PRIOR TO THIS MEETING
Chapter 8 and Afterword

PLAN AHEAD FOR THIS CLOSING SESSION OF THE RETREAT
In this closing session:

(1) It would be lovely to celebrate by inviting retreatants to share whatever they have created over the course of this retreat—painted rocks, collages, music playlists, poetry, prayers, essays, collections of symbolic objects to go with each theme, drawings, photos, doodle art, etc. You may choose to do this at the beginning or at the end of this final session.

(2) Depending on your tradition, beliefs, denominational polity, and preferences, you may choose to share in the Lord's Supper at this session.

(3) Sharing a meal together afterward might be a wonderful way to close this final meeting of the retreat.

OPENING READING
Read aloud prayer: You welcome us to a table where love is made known, Pg. 213

REVIEW
Moving through the pages of Chapter 8 and the Afterword, share with each other your highlights, notes, and favorite quotes. If the group is large or time is limited, you may wish to identify the one, two, or three selections that most affected you. In sharing with the group, be sure to tell them how you responded.

- Was there something you were encountering for the first time?
- What caught your attention?
- What challenged you?
- What is landing with you?
- What have you heard?
    - What whispers to you at this time?
    - What is loud and clear?
- What do you sense needs birthing in you?
- To what are you saying yes?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LOOKING BACK AT THIS BOOK AND THE RETREAT
WITH ZEPHANIAH 3:17 AS A WHOLE,
AND LOOKING FORWARD TO IMPLEMENTING IN REAL LIFE…

Discuss the Reflection Questions (pages 245-249).

At this table there are invitations, gifts, abundance (feast), dialogue, companionship, relationship, love. As you imagine yourself joining the Trinity at the table, joining in the circle dance of the Trinity…

- What feelings, responses, thoughts do you notice as you imagine joining the Trinity at the table?
- What feelings, responses, thoughts do you notice as you imagine joining the Trinity in the circle dance?
- What do you hear God saying to you?
- What do you feel?
- What are you being offered?
- What are you being invited to do?
- Who are you being empowered to become?
- What else do you notice?
- Which of these is your greatest need right now—invitation, gift, abundant feast, dialogue, companionship, relationship, love? (Perhaps you might spend a few moments pondering another meal with Jesus—think back to the post-resurrection story of Jesus calling the disciples from their boat to the beach where he provided breakfast, forgiveness, meaning, purpose, acceptance, etc.)

Think specifically about how you are being changed and how living out of the identity of being God's beloved might take shape.

Having immersed yourself in the experience of being God's beloved—
focusing on *God's* image of *you*,
and welcoming the blessed image of God as described in Zephaniah 3:17—
focusing on *your* image of *God*,
then integrating the entire experience
by accepting your invitation to join the Trinity's dinner and dance…

- How do you live out of that identity as God's beloved?
- How might living into the identity of being God's beloved and the in-depth understanding of these verses in Zephaniah 3:17 become a trellis to support your growth, flowering, and fruitfulness as your life with God continues to unfold?

- Which of these five statements from Zephaniah 3:17 stood out for you or became more meaningful to you over the course of this retreat?
    - The Lord your God is with you.
    - God is mighty to save.
    - God delights in you.
    - God quiets you with love.
    - God rejoices over you with singing.
- How has this retreat impacted you? How is this experience bringing about change or transformation in your life?
- Are there practices you want to incorporate into your life moving forward to increase your awareness of God's presence and increase your capacity to be present to God?
- How specifically will you intentionally extend all that you've received and are enjoying while on retreat to tomorrow and the next day and the next?
- Building on this foundation, how will you take this retreat experience into ordinary, everyday life, extend the love & grace you've received to others, becoming a conduit of God's love, a redemptive presence in the lives of others?
- To assist in answering these questions, please take some time to make a list of the things you do well, the areas of life for which you have passion, interest, delight. Think about what you do at work, at home, on vacation, in spare time, with friends, family, at church. What makes you feel fully present and fully alive? Then prayerfully ask if there is a way you might act on that.

Throughout this retreat, as you spent time reflecting on being God's beloved delight and who God is as described in Zephaniah 3:17, to what have you sensed God asking you to begin to pay attention or continue to pay attention?

- Do you sense any invitations from God?
- Were there areas around which you sensed God saying, "Well done!" (not that you can't grow in these areas, but where you are doing well, or you sense God's pleasure)?
- How might a deeper sense of being loved by God free you to build stronger bonds with others, loving them as you are loved?

- What is the takeaway that you want to carry forward? How might you deepen this experience?
- What are you desiring from God in this next season?
- Are there ways you may support each other in taking these next steps?

PRAYER

Close your gathering with prayers for one another, ending with *"Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!"*