

 Bible Study Lesson: God's Promise of Joy and Witness - 02192026

 Focal Scripture (NIV – Zechariah 8:18–23)

18 The word of the Lord Almighty came to me.

19 This is what the Lord Almighty says: “The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.”

20 This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come,

21 and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.’

22 And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat him.”

23 This is what the Lord Almighty says: “In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.’”

 Lesson Objectives

- Understand God's promise to transform mourning into joy and fasting into celebration.
- Recognize the call to love truth and peace as central to God's people.
- Reflect on the vision of nations being drawn to God's presence through His people.
- Connect this prophecy to the mission of the church in Acts 1:6–8 and the generosity of believers in 2 Corinthians 8:3–9.

 Verse Breakdown and Insights

- Verse 18–19: God promises transformation—fasts of sorrow will become festivals of joy. The key response is to love truth and peace.
- Verses 20–21: A vision of revival—people encouraging one another to seek the Lord. Faith is contagious when lived sincerely.
- Verse 22: Nations will be drawn to God's presence, showing His universal plan of salvation.

- Verse 23: God’s people will be recognized as carriers of His presence. Others will want to join them because they see God at work.

Discussion Questions

1. How does God’s promise to turn fasting into joyful festivals encourage us today?
2. What does it mean to “love truth and peace” in our daily lives?
3. How can our personal witness inspire others to seek the Lord?
4. What does verse 23 teach us about the role of God’s people in drawing nations to Him?
5. How does this passage prepare us for the mission of the church in Acts 1:6–8?

Memory Verse

Zechariah 8:23 (NIV): This is what the Lord Almighty says: “In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.’”

Why This Lesson Prepares Us for Acts 1:6–8 and 2 Corinthians 8:3–9

- Acts 1:6–8: God’s people are empowered by the Spirit to be witnesses to all nations. Zechariah’s vision of nations seeking the Lord anticipates this mission.
- 2 Corinthians 8:3–9: The generosity of the early church reflects the joy and transformation God promised. Their witness was not only in words but in sacrificial love.
- Together, these passages show that God’s plan is for His people to embody joy, truth, peace, and generosity so that the nations are drawn to Him.

Closing Prayer

Lord Almighty, thank You for Your promise to turn sorrow into joy and fasting into celebration. Help us to love truth and peace, and to live as witnesses of Your presence. May our lives draw others to You, and may we serve with generosity and gladness. Empower us by Your Spirit to fulfill the mission You have given us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Fill-in-the-Blank Worksheet (Participant Version)

Bible Study Worksheet: Zechariah 8:18–23 (NIV)

Focus Scripture

“The fasts of the _____, _____, _____ and _____ months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy _____ for Judah. Therefore love _____ and _____.” (v.19)

“In those days ten people from all _____ and _____ will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that _____ is with you.’” (v.23)

Lesson Objectives

1. Understand God’s promise to transform _____ into joy and fasting into _____.
2. Recognize the call to love _____ and _____.
3. Reflect on the vision of _____ being drawn to God’s presence.

Verse Breakdown

- Verses 18–19: God promises transformation—fasts of sorrow become _____ of joy.
- Verses 20–21: People encourage one another to _____ the Lord.
- Verse 22: Nations will be drawn to God’s _____.
- Verse 23: God’s people will be recognized as carriers of His _____.

Discussion Questions

1. How does God’s promise to turn _____ into joyful festivals encourage us today?
2. What does it mean to “love _____ and _____” in our daily lives?
3. How can our personal _____ inspire others to seek the Lord?

Memory Verse

Fill in the blanks:

“In those days ten people from all _____ and _____ will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that _____ is with you.’” (Zechariah 8:23)

Connection to Acts & 2 Corinthians

- Acts 1: God’s people are empowered by the _____ to be witnesses to all nations.
- 2 Corinthians 8: The generosity of the early church reflects the _____ and transformation God promised.
- Zechariah 8: God’s plan is for His people to embody joy, truth, peace, and _____.