



FAITH

& LOVE

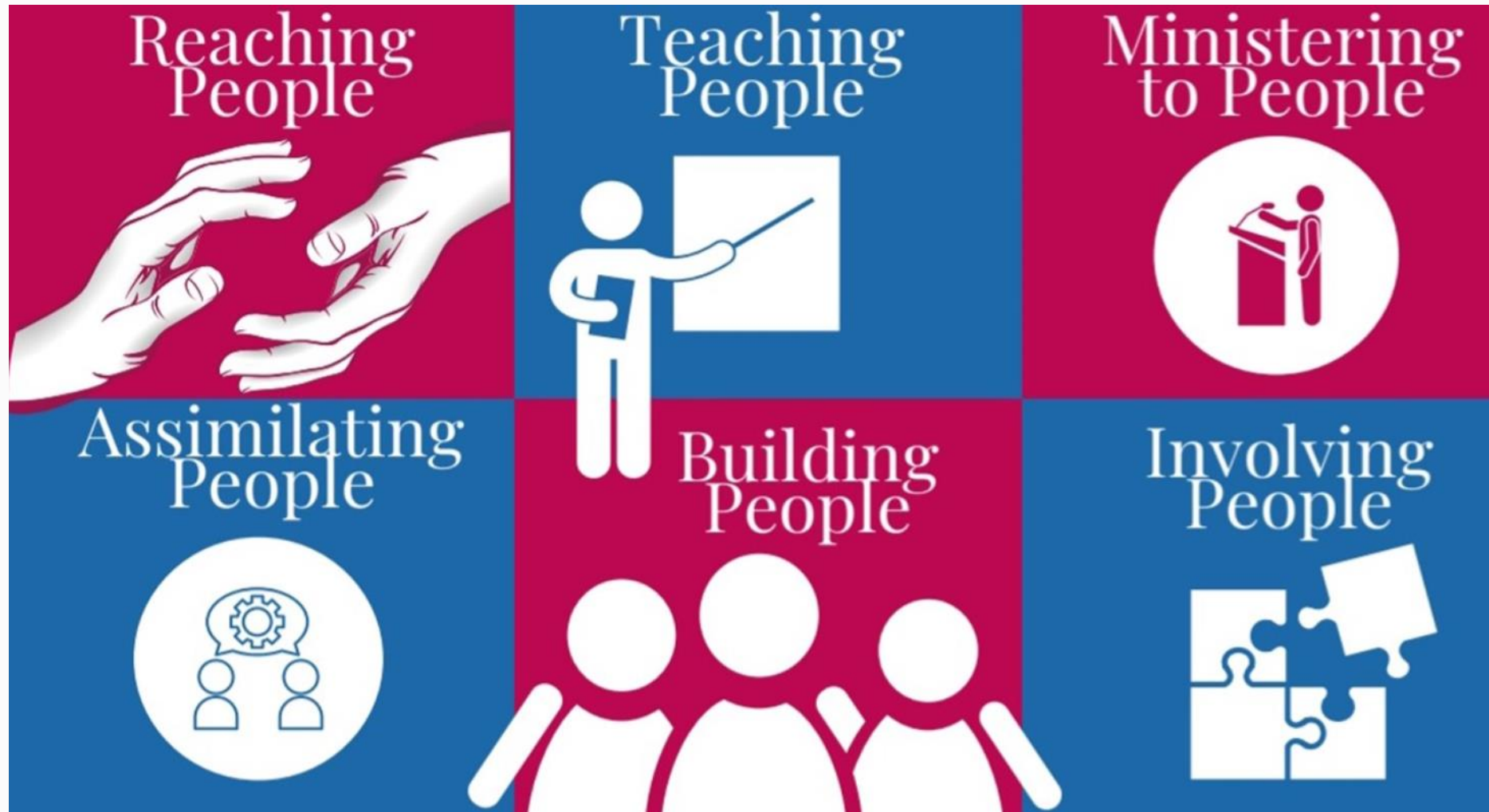
Church of God in Christ

Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C
Sunday School

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF
DISOBEDIENCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



Reaching
People



Teaching
People



Ministering
to People



Assimilating
People



Building
People



Involving
People



Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men." **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



- Bible Basis: Zephaniah 3:6-8
- Bible Truth: Zephaniah recounts how God punished the people for their disobedience, and wanted them to correct their behavior.
- Memory Verse: “Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I ruse up to the prey; for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdom, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy” (Zephaniah 3:8)
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: EXAMINE Zephaniah’s prophecy that God would want to save His people and the people’s intransigent rebellion; HELP adults realize that God loves us, wants our obedience, and will give us a second chance to repent; and COMMIT to asking God to give another opportunity for redemption and salvation.
- Background Scriptures: [Deuteronomy 8:11-18](#); [Genesis 1:1-2:3](#); [Zephaniah 3:1-8](#) – Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



Zephaniah 3:6-8 KJV

6 I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant.

7 I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, and corrupted all their doings.

8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



LIGHT ON THE WORD

Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the capital city of the Southern Kingdom, Judah. It was known as the Holy City. The Temple, central to Jewish worship, was located in Jerusalem. Because Judah persisted in her sinful ways, the Lord promised judgment. True to Zephaniah's prophecy, the city was captured by Babylonia's king, Nebuchadnezzar, in 597 BC and destroyed in 587 after a decade of occupation.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will explore how people sometimes destroy something beautiful even when they know the consequences.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



INTRODUCTION

God's Restoration Refused

Beginning in Zephaniah 2, the prophet describes God's coming judgment on the nations. First, the Lord started with Philistia. He promised to make the coastlands that the people inhabited a pasture for flocks. Next He judged Moab and Ammon, the descendants of Lot, who had mistreated God's people. He promised that He would humble them, and did so. The Lord then turned to Egypt and promised to punish the Egyptians through war, killing their youth. Next, He promised the Ethiopians death by the sword. Finally, the Lord addressed Assyria and promised that the great city of Nineveh would become a wilderness.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



INTRODUCTION

God's Restoration Refused

Here in Zephaniah 3 is a prophecy directed at Jerusalem. [Verses 1 through 6](#) give a detailed picture of Jerusalem. The City of God had deteriorated into a polluted city filled with violence and crime (v. 1). The people of Jerusalem resisted all attempts at correction. Though Josiah had instituted religious reforms and nearly eradicated Baal worship, the people of Judah remained rebellious. They had no faith in the Lord and would not seek Him (v. 2). The leaders preyed on the people. Even their worship was tainted. The priests defiled the Temple and the prophets were seeking only personal gain. The Lord had attempted to restore Jerusalem, but they refused. At this point, the Lord's wrath will come upon the people of Jerusalem for their sinful ways.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will know that believers know that there are consequences to their sinful behavior.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



I. OTHER NATIONS ARE DESTROYED

Zephaniah 3:6

The Lord describes how He executed judgment on other nations. [Zephaniah 2:4-15](#) describe the Lord's judgment on surrounding nations. He pronounces judgment on Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, and Assyria. He uses their destruction as an example of judgment for sin. Their foundations and their towers had been destroyed. These other nations had been "cut off." There were no survivors. These nations had become extinct.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



I. OTHER NATIONS ARE DESTROYED

Zephaniah 3:6

6 I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant.

In the previous verses, God has indicted Jerusalem. He describes the wrongs of the officials and leaders. He contrasts their injustice with His justice as a righteous judge. Next the Lord, through Zephaniah, declares His track record and the foolishness of Jerusalem's rebellion. He declares, "I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate." The word for tower (Heb. *pinnah*, **pee-NAH**) refers to the corners of a building, usually where a tower of a citadel or fortress would be positioned. These towers would be key points in the defense of the city. Once these towers fell, the whole city would be open and vulnerable to attack. These towers were now desolate (Heb. *shaman*, *shah-MAHM*), which means destroyed to the point of being empty. The Lord is saying that the strength of the nations – their armies – is no more. The streets are made waste (Heb. *charab*, **khah-RAHV**), which means here to be in ruins. The picture is that the streets would have no one walking on them. After God's judgment, no one would be left.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



II. JUDAH REFUSED TO REPENT

Zephaniah 3:7

While Judah was aware of the destruction and judgment of surrounding nations, they were certain that it would not happen to them. They believed that the Lord would do nothing to them ([1:12](#)). As a result, Judah was unaffected by the destruction of other nations.

The Lord had hoped that after seeing the destruction that had come to the surrounding nations, Judah would repent and turn to Him. He did not want to strike Judah and bring destruction. Judah, however, remained deeply entrenched in sin – so much so that the inhabitants of Judah rose early in the morning to engage in their sin (v. 6).

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



II. JUDAH REFUSED TO REPENT

Zephaniah 3:7

By making examples of surrounding nations, God was giving Judah a chance to repent.

He gave them a chance to choose wholeness rather than desolation. Judah had an opportunity to receive the Lord's instruction and correction, and avoid judgment.

Instead, Judah chose to continue in their sin.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



II. JUDAH REFUSED TO REPENT

No Fear of God

Zephaniah 3:7

7 I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, and corrupted all their doings.

Zephaniah gives us a glimpse into the divine mind and heart. After all that God has done to the nations, He expects His own people to fear (Heb. *yara*, **yah-RAH**) Him. This fear is a theological term with reverential awe as the dominant aspect, which would drive those who possess it to a life of piety and obedience and a willingness to receive instruction (Heb. *musar*, **moo-SAHR**). This word also refers to discipline, correction, and chastisement. In this context, Zephaniah specifically has in mind discipline and chastisement with a view to a change of behavior. The purpose of the discipline is to keep Israel from being cut off (Heb. *karat*, **kah-ROT**), a euphemism for ceasing to exist in the sense that God would find a way to end the person's family line ([cf. Leviticus 7:20-21; Jeremiah 11:19](#)). The Lord desires His people to continue in spite of the fact that He needs to punish them. This punishment was something that could not be averted, but if they repented of their sins, it would be remedial and not result in total destruction.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



III. THE LORD PROMISES UTTER DESTRUCTION AND OFFERS HOPE

Zephaniah 3:8

Because Judah did not heed the Lord's warning and refused to repent, the Lord promised utter destruction for the unrepentant. Still, a message of hope remained for the faithful.

The Lord also spoke to the small remnant that served Him. He commanded them to wait on Him. He promised that He would judge the sinners and restore the righteous. The faithful were instructed to await the redemption of the Lord. He urged them to wait on Him and depend on Him alone.

III. THE LORD PROMISES UTTER DESTRUCTION AND OFFERS HOPE

Zephaniah 3:8

The prophecy describes the final Day of the Lord when the nations will be judged. This time of extreme tribulation will be unlike anything that has ever been seen before ([Matthew 24:21](#)). The Lord will pour out His fury against the nations for their rebellion against Him.

The Lord promises a tragic end: the whole earth will be devoured by the fire of His jealousy. This is particularly unfortunate because He is destroying the very creation He delighted in making and declared good. The fire of His jealousy would consume all.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE

III. THE LORD PROMISES UTTER DESTRUCTION AND OFFERS HOPE

The Fire of God's Jealousy

Zephaniah 3:8

8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.



As a result of Jerusalem's continuous rebellion, the Lord says to wait (Heb. *chakah*, **kha-KAH**) for Him—the day when God's judgment comes, when He rises up to seize the prey. The word for rise up (Heb. *qum*, **KOOM**) means to rise up, but also to physically stand up or to arise with power over somebody or something – in this case the deserved punishment of the people of Jerusalem is the consequence of God assuming His full power. The Lord says His decision is to gather (Heb. *asaph*, **ah-SAHF**) or bring in the nations into the court of justice. He will assemble (Heb. *qabats*, **kah-VATS**) the kingdoms. The Hebrew word for "assemble" means to collect in the sense of grasping by the hand as with grain during the harvest, but most of the time means a gathering of people.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



III. THE LORD PROMISES UTTER DESTRUCTION AND OFFERS HOPE

The Fire of God's Jealousy

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This gathering of the nations would be according to the Lord's sovereign plan and He would be intimately involved. The purpose is that He will pour out His indignation (Heb. *zaam*, **ZAH-am**), which is related to the idea of foaming. This indignation will be unleashed on the nations, and Judah will be a recipient as well. Zephaniah adds that in the fire of the Lord's jealousy, the whole earth will be consumed. Here jealousy (Heb. *qinah*, **kee-NAH**) means the appropriate desire for what someone has a right to – in this case, the jealousy of God who is Lord over the whole earth and His people in particular.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



LIGHT ON THE WORD

Repent, Judah, Repent!

The Lord reminded Judah of the destruction of these other nations as an appeal for Judah to repent. He had judged sinners. Would He not judge His own people who had lost faith in Him, the ones who had chosen not to walk in His ways, even more so?

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will know that God offers hope for change and wants to save people from their disobedience.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



BIBLE APPLICATION

So many in our society believe, like the people of Judah, that the Lord will do nothing to them. Many lose sight of the fact that we will one day stand before God ([Romans 14:12](#)). Each person will have to give an account. So many carry on as if there were no punishment for sin and no need for a savior.

Zephaniah prophesies the judgment of the whole earth. God does indeed punish for sin, but He is also rich in mercy and seeks repentance and reconciliation. Spend some time with the Lord to confess any sin and let Him speak to you about how you can please Him more.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will affirm that God provides opportunities for people to repent and seek His ways.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026
THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



STUDENT RESPONSES

Proverbs 15:32 says, "If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding" (NLT). The Holy Spirit is constantly speaking to us. We must be attentive and responsive to the Lords leading and correction. Regularly spend time reading the Bible and praying. Seek the Lord and let Him instruct you.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026
THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



Prayer

God,

Hear our prayers of needing and wanting You in our lives. Help us and guide us to know that You give us love, forgiveness, and opportunities in so many ways to seek You, love You, and honor You. Thank You for forgiving us and blessing us.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

Lesson 2 June 14, 2026

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE



Next Sunday

June 14, 2026

Lesson 2

“The Consequences of
Disobedience”

Zephaniah 3:6-8