

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Zechariah Series

These questions are for the **January 28, 2023** message, "The Spirit of Grace." Please read the sermon passage (Zechariah 12:10-13:1) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS WE CONSIDER OUR LORD'S SECOND COMING, NOTE . . .

1. The grace to be experienced. (12:10a)
 - a. The LORD will pour out his grace upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
 - i. This indicates an unmerited work of salvation on the house of David.
 - ii. Furthermore, an unmerited work of salvation on all of Jerusalem's inhabitants.
 - b. This is not a trickle, but "an outpouring."
2. The mourning to be expressed. (10b-14)
 - a. They will look upon "him whom they have pierced." (John 19:37; 20:26-29; Isaiah 53)
 - i. There will be a realization of guilt and shame for piercing him.
 - ii. This mourning will be personal (each family by itself). The royal family, the prophetic family, the priestly family will each mourn deeply.
 - b. The place of rebellion becomes the place of restoration, and all of this by God's grace.
3. The cleansing to be expected. (13:1)
 - a. God, in his kindness and grace, opens an undeserved "fountain" of cleansing.
 - b. Before the restoration of the land, there must be a restoration of the people.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The externals (politics, wars and rumors of wars and personal danger) will continue to get worse. Under those conditions the inhabitants of Jerusalem have a "spirit of grace" poured upon them that results in repentance and "pleas for mercy." In what ways have you seen chaotic (external) conditions produce peaceful (internals) transformations?
2. Based on #1, above: How does understanding what will happen when Jesus returns help you interpret the news and find on-ramps to discuss God's grace with believers? With unbelievers?
3. Based on #2, above: The first step toward hope, redemption and repentance is often mourning. Until we realize how bad we have been and see God's lovingkindness, we will not turn to him. Describe how mourning over your own sin has produced repentance. How might processing your own shame (and restoration) open doors for you to speak to unbelievers about Jesus?
4. Based on #3, above: At the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, we will see an outpouring of grace which results in a widespread harvest of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Lots and lots of people will repent and trust Jesus Christ, our Messiah. How does knowing the signs and signals of the Second Coming keep you faithful? In what ways should you be personally more ready?