

# The God Story Week 5: Soundtrack

By Jacob Armstrong

## Key Verse

*“The LORD your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory.*

*He will create calm with his love; he will rejoice over you with singing.”*

Zephaniah 3:17

## Summary

The Soundtrack in the Bible, the Soundtrack of our lives, if we can open our ears to hear it, is a song of God’s love. Throughout the story, God’s people will wander away, and yet God calls out to them over and over again, inviting them to return. Thread #5 is this—*God’s love is reoccurring and relentless.*

## Session Goals

- Realize that the Bible is a way we can hear God’s voice as the Soundtrack to our lives,
- Find songs and other ways to train our ears to listen for God’s song in our lives, and
- Remind ourselves and be thankful that God’s love is reoccurring and relentless in its pursuit of us.

## Discussion Starter

Since we are talking about the Soundtrack this week, give participants an opportunity to share Scripture verses or songs that have become meaningful to them in their lives. The group leader might consider asking the group to come with an excerpt from a meaningful song to share. Ask them to share briefly about why or how this song or verse became part of the Soundtrack to their lives.

## Read & Discuss

### Zephaniah 3:14-17

This Scripture is beautiful, but Zephaniah is not a romantic book. It exposes the depth of betrayal of the people, how far they have turned from God, and the devastating consequences of these choices. So, when you hear about God delighting, quieting, and singing over us, please understand the context. God is saying this to people who have run away from God, forgotten about God, and left the God Story behind. This relentless and reoccurring love comes to us over and over again. Either now or after reflecting on the excerpt from *Daily Readings*, listen to “Amazed” by Phillips, Craig, and Dean and accept again this amazing love.

### Philippians 4:8; Psalm 119:11; Hebrews 10:24-25

We can become so busy that we forget to listen for God’s song in the midst of our routines. What have you already built into your routine to train your ear to hear God’s voice? What could you add as another reminder?

## For more discussion:

Zephaniah was one of these reminding prophets. He lived approximately six centuries before Christ and about one hundred years after the prophets Micah and Nahum.

Israel had been defeated, and Jerusalem and the Temple had been destroyed. The nation of Judah was under fire from surrounding empires, and before long it too would be completely taken over.

The people desperately needed to hear from God.

Zephaniah says:

The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you; he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

Each part would be critical to hear for them. Each part is critical for us to hear today.

*God is with you.* The reminder that no matter what we are going through, God is present. We don't always have the answers to the "whys" and the "hows," but one thing we can be certain of; God is with us.

*He is mighty to save.* When we feel powerless, God has the power. When we look at the impossible situation, God sees possibilities. God is mighty and has the power to save us.

*He will take great delight in you.* This is where it gets interesting. God delights in us? This does not sound like a far-off God, but one who knows us intimately. Not only does God know and love us, but God delights in us. God's heart finds joy in you and in me.

*He will quiet you with his love.* Love can do a lot of things. Here Zephaniah says God's love can calm us down, quiet our hearts. Do you need that today?

*He will rejoice over you with singing.* The God of the universe, the God who created heaven and earth, sings over you with joy. The sight of you causes God to hum and then burst into song. I'm not making this stuff up. God's voice is the Soundtrack over your life singing of the promise of God's presence, God's power that can rescue you from any danger, and God's love that calms your heart and quiets your soul.

Which part of this song is hardest for you to hear?

Which is easiest?

## **Closing Prayer**

O God, open my ears to hear your voice. Open my heart to hear your song of joy being sung over me. Open my mouth to sing your praise. I give my life to you today. In Jesus' name. Amen.