

Small Group Discussion Guide

Sermon: "A Lullaby at Day's Edge" • Series: *Silhouettes of Hope: Christmas through the Eyes of the Minor Prophets*
Pastor Mel Baga, D.Min. • Dec. 27, 2025

OPENING PRAYER

God who is near,
we slow down and make space
for You.
Quiet our hearts.
Help us listen.
Be with us now.
Amen.

1. WARM-UP CONVERSATION (5–10 MINUTES)

As this year ends, what word best describes how you're arriving today? (tired, grateful, uncertain, relieved, hopeful, unfinished.)

2. READ THE TEXT TOGETHER

Read Zephaniah 3:17 aloud (twice, if helpful). After reading, pause for silence and sit with the words.

3. UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

Focus on what the text says before what it means.

- What actions does God take in this verse?
- What words describe God's posture toward His people?
- What feels surprising or unexpected about how God is presented here?

4. PERSONAL REFLECTION (SILENT OR JOURNALING)

Reflect honestly on the phrases below:

- “The Lord your God is in your midst” — Where do you most need to trust that God is near right now?
- “He will rejoice over you” — What makes it difficult to believe that God delights in you?
- “He will quiet you by his love” — What inner noise from this year do you long to have quieted?
- “He will sing over you” — What might it change if God’s joy, not your effort, had the final word?

5. LIVING THE PASSAGE (APPLICATION)

Choose one gentle practice for the coming days:

- **Stillness:** Sit quietly each day and repeat, “The Lord my God is in my midst.”
- **Release:** Write down one burden from this year and offer it to God in prayer.
- **Receiving:** Begin or end the day by imagining God singing over you—not correcting you.

6. CLOSING REFLECTION QUESTION

As you step into the new year, what would it look like to move forward held rather than hurried?

7. CLOSING PRAYER

God of peace,
thank You for being with us.
Quiet us with Your love.
Lead us forward in Your care.
Amen.