

**FOOD TIME:** (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

**MEETING TIME:** (45 minutes)

As we open up this season of connect groups, we are continuing our look into the book of Zechariah. We have seen this prophetic book outline what is to come, and as we enter the latter half of it, we see the promise of God that stands so true to us today. In chapter 10, Zechariah is delivering a promise of restoration for the people. This is such an encouraging chapter because it refreshes us in the truth that nothing can stop the Lord. His plan is not one that wavers, it is steady, and that redemption is what we have to look forward to. When we recognize that God is in control and that He is in charge, we are going to be strengthened and we can walk boldly and confidently in His name. This chapter emphasizes that God's promise of restoration is a hope for all who live in this fallen world.

**READ Zechariah 10: 6-12**

**6** I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; for I am the Lord their God, and I will hear them. **7** Those of Ephraim shall be like the mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as if with tone. Yes, their children shall see it and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the Lord. **8** I will whistle for them and gather them, for I will redeem them; and they shall increase as they once increased. **9** I will sow them among the peoples, and they shall remember Me in far countries; they shall live, together with their children, and they shall return. **10** I will also bring them back from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, until no more room is found for them. **11** He shall pass through the sea with affliction, and strike the waves of the sea; all the depths of the River shall dry up. Then the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart. **12** "So I will strengthen them in the Lord, and they shall walk up and down in His name," says the Lord.

**FACILITATE Discussion Questions**

1. How does it feel to know that we are strengthened by the Lord on a daily basis?
2. What does a promise of restoration mean for us?
3. Verse 8 is so powerful in that God is calling for us; how does that motivate you to live for him?
4. God's plans plant seeds all over the world, how do you feel God planting seeds in your life?
5. How can we use a section of scripture like this to help others experience the love that Christ has for us?

**PRAY-** Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

**APPLICATION-** This chapter is about restoration; that God is going to restore us all to the redemption of His kingdom. As you go out into the week, the application and challenge for this week is that we look for ways to glorify God's kingdom in everything that we do. Look for ways to give people the hope of the gospel and the hope of the restoration that God promises us. Living in the fallen world that we live in, it can be extremely difficult to walk boldly and confidently in who God is because of the pressures that we face. As a connect group, continue to encourage one another. When we have that encouragement from others, it certainly helps when we are called to walk into a difficult situation, and being able to provide the hope of the gospel in everything that we do makes it so that we can always look to Him and not to everything else around us.