

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

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

Chapter 11 ended with the prophecy that the judgment day will come. Chapters 12 and 13 delve into what that deliverance is going to look like, but these two chapters end in hope. They end in the hope of what is to come; that the Savior is going to save all those who recognize the name of Jesus and accept Him. The end of chapter 13 offers that hope. It then floods into the final chapter of Zechariah in chapter 14 that expresses the day of the Lord. One thing to look at as we look at the end of chapter 13, think about the hope of the gospel can be uplifting and even through hardship, we can see that God simply wants us to recognize Him and bring Him praise and worship.

READ Zechariah 13: 7-9

7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion," says the Lord of Hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones." **8** And it shall come to pass in all the land," says the Lord, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: **9** I will bring one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. What does this section of scripture tell us about God's undying love for us?
2. Verse 9 references being brought through the fire; how has God refined you?
3. Why should we constantly call on God's name, especially when we are being tested?
4. How do you feel when you hear God say, 'This is My people?'
5. How can the end of the chapter be important in helping someone open up to a relationship with Christ?

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

APPLICATION- The hopefulness at the end of chapter 13 is so crucial because it leads back to the unwavering love that God has for all of us. The importance here is that we call on His name. This week, think about how God wants us to call on Him every day, whether it is through Him refining us through tests, or just sitting in His glory. If you are going through a hardship, pray that you can consistently look to Him throughout it. If you are not, pray to have the ability to seek the Lord when hardships will come. Spend the time in fellowship with one another and continue to lift one another up. Look for those moments where you can use past hardships as a testimony to how God helped you get out of it and how you can glorify Him through it.