



Session 3: Our Great Salvation  
Suggested Week of Use: March 15, 2015  
Core Passages: Zephaniah 3:8-17

## **News Story Summary**

Nebraska passed a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage in 2000. Recently a US Court District Judge struck down the amendment, triggering an appeal by the state's attorney general. The constitutional amendment in question was passed by Nebraska voters with 67% voting in favor of defining marriage as being between a man and a woman.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the sentence "Federal Judge blocks same-sex marriage ban.")

## **Focus Attention**

Prior to the group arriving, write on a marker board: "What is one significant decision you have made recently?" As group members arrive, highlight the question and direct them to record their responses on the marker board. After a few have recorded their thoughts, share the information about the Judge's decision to overturn Nebraska's constitutional amendment defining marriage. Ask: What factors do you think went into the Judge's decision and the state's decision to appeal? Who or what do you think is most responsible for the decision made?

Say: Zephaniah prophesied about a decision God had made about holding the entire world responsible for their decision to ignore Him. The prophet identified the actions God's people should take as that day of accountability approached.

Challenge the group to seek to discover the actions God's people are to take in anticipation of the coming Day of the Lord.

## **Challenge**

Remind the group of the news story about the Nebraska marriage amendment. Lead the group to discuss how various news stories points to the desperate needs of our sinful world for a Savior.

Review the three headings of each scripture section in today's study (Wait in Faith, Call on God, and Celebrate Salvation). Lead the group to brainstorm ways they can respond to issues facing today's believers in these three ways. Challenge them to look for ways they can represent God and his standards in today's world.

Prayer: Ask for God's guidance in responding to critical issues facing believers today. Ask the Holy Spirit for boldness and grace to share with others the truth of the gospel.