

(1) Why is it that we struggle to believe God truly and sincerely loves us? We don't struggle with other divine attributes (such as holiness and power and knowledge). What is it about God's love that makes it so difficult for us to believe?

(2) The prophet Zephaniah talks about God's presence, his power, and his passion. What difference, practically speaking, does it make in your life to know that each of these is true? Be specific.

(3) Many people have a picture of God as stern and severe and unapproachable. Why? What does Zephaniah 3:17 say to this? How does it strike you to hear that God is filled with joy and gladness and pleasure?

(4) In what, specifically, does God find joy? In what, specifically, does he find gladness and pleasure? Zephaniah says it is in you and me! Identify some of the reasons you find this difficult to believe.

(5) How does it strike you to discover that God sings? Do you have a hard time believing this? How does it strike you to hear that God sings over **you**? What obstacles must be overcome in your own heart to believe this? If you could bring yourself to believe it, what difference would it make in your life?