

## Scripture Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

*Anger is one letter short of danger! —Anon.*

We're in the season of Advent, counting the days until Christmas. It's a festive season, but it can also be a stressful time. Tempers can run short.

Most of us have said things we wish we had not said. In the heat of the moment, our passion takes over and leaves our brains behind. One website posted an article in which people identified topics about which an argument ensued. These heated disagreements included:

- A discussion of which weighed more, a pound of bricks or a pound of feathers;
- A disagreement over who painted the Mona Lisa, one person saying the artist was Leonardo DiCaprio;
- An argument because of what someone did to the other in a dream;
- A brouhaha over the question of whether frosting turns a muffin into a cupcake;
- And a difference of opinion as to whether salsa and picante are the same thing.

Here's a reminder to help us as we engage with others during Advent. These principles are not original with me, and perhaps you've read them before. They bear repeating. Before saying something you might regret later, ask yourself three questions:

- Does this need to be said?
- Does this need to be said *by me*?
- Does this need to be said by me, *now*?

If you can't remember these rules, remember what the Bible says:

- "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6).
- "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29).

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to refrain from being hurtful today, and to use my words to bless others. In your name. Amen.*

*Blessings,  
Lisa & Pastor Ben Alatz*



**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** Proverbs 15-18

**Monday:** Proverbs 19-21

**Tuesday:** Proverbs 22-24

**Wednesday:** Proverbs 25-28

**Thursday:** Proverbs 29-31

**Friday:** Ecclesiastes 1-3

**Saturday:** Ecclesiastes 4-6

# CHANGE ONE LETTER AND FIND THE CITY!

**Directions:** For each of the three words below, change one letter to an **O** and then rearrange the letters to spell a major city of the world.

## HIDDEN WORDS

Here are 10 words that can be rearranged to form another word. We've done the first one for you.

1. DECAL (laced)
2. WRONG
3. LIVED
4. LEMON
5. BURNT
6. THORN
7. LANCE
8. WASTE
9. MARCH
10. LEAST

**P U L S E**

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**V I C A R**

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**C H A I N**

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**Answers to Hidden Words (spelled backward):** 2. nworg, 3. lived, 4. nolem, 5. tnurb, 6. htron, 7. naelc, 8. taews, 9. mrahc, 10. laets. **Answers to Change One Letter and Find the City!:** Seoul, Cairo, Hanoi.