

Week 2 – Discussion Questions / Family Conversations

1. This passage makes a turning point in the flow of the book of Joel. The discussion switches from focusing on judgment and repentance to restoration.

- In what ways does the predicted restoration go beyond Israel's affliction?
- In the past, where have you seen destitution and affliction in your own life, and how have you seen God's restorative work heal and even go beyond what you needed or asked for?
- Where in your life (or even in the life of our church or culture) do you see a great need for restoration? What would real restoration look like in this area?

2. As we see in this passage—and throughout the Scriptures—salvation and restoration is bigger than God solving our personal problems by reconciling us to Himself. Among other things, it is also Him restoring us so that we can be part of His work to restore all creation.

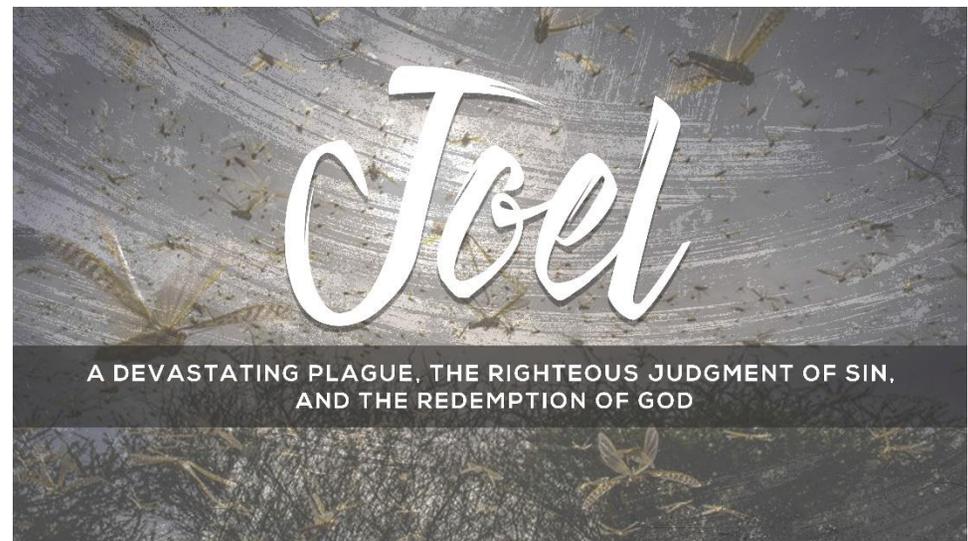
- How have you seen God use you to be part of His work to restore all creation to Himself?
- In what ways has God uniquely gifted you to be His ambassador to a specific area of society or demographic? How is He using you there?

3. A big part of this restorative process within creation is the restoration of relationships (with God first and then others).

- Are there any relationships that you currently have that are being strangled due to unforgiveness either towards you or you might have towards others?
- What can/should you do to work to make a breakthrough here?
- Is forgiveness a one-time thing or an ongoing practice?
- How do you know if you have truly forgiven someone?

Restoration is the last piece where we reach a place of significant trust so that the relationship is rebuilt. This doesn't mean that things necessarily go back to the way they used to be. When significant trust has been broken due to abuse or unfaithfulness, sometimes restoration involves a new kind of relationship that is marked by love and acceptance, but with healthy boundaries in place.

- Where have you seen or experienced the restoration of a relationship in your life?
- How did the relationship change after you were restored?



The Book of Joel`

Joel is calling the people to redemptive conversation.

Let the sovereign providence of God on earth direct your eyes, ears, and voice toward His place in heaven!

The themes so far in the book of Joel have involved destruction and repentance. There was physical destruction all around the people from a plague of locusts. This was a clear work of God to get the attention of His people. However, it is clear that “this” day of the Lord was intended to point to “that” coming day of the Lord. Joel gives us an essence of the Gospel.

Chapter 1 – “You have nothing to offer.”

Chapter 2 – “So, God will offer it for you.”

Tonight, we reach a turning point of the book of Joel. First, we see God begin to speak in first person to His people. Second, in the repentance of His people, God's destruction yields to restoration.

In the same way that God's temporary judgment was to point to His coming eternal judgment, the physical relief and restoration of the land was to point to the coming eternal restoration that will be found in Christ. As we examine God's restoration let's keep these themes in mind...

The Gospel on the Ground – this is the Gospel as it applies to us as individuals. It is God's working in our lives personally.

The Gospel in the Air – this is the grand scope of God’s plan to bring all things to consummation in Christ. It is the full picture. (Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Completion of the Gospel in Jesus)

God’s work in our lives personally through the Gospel is to point to God’s greater work in this world. What has happened to you points to what God is doing in all of creation.

Chapter 2:17-32 – Now and Later: God’s Plan for Restoration

We must not miss that this point of the book hinges the repentance mentioned in vs. 17.

1. Restoration reveals something about the character of our God.

(Remember, the promise and method of restoration in Joel are particular toward the original audience of Joel, but the principles of God’s nature apply to all. He does not change.)

- a. He is jealous for His people. – vs. 18
 - It is pertinent to note that God is not jealous of us. We are His creation and He loves us in a way we cannot even understand. He alone can satisfy and provide for us in the way He intends for us to live.
 - He is feelings are fierce toward anything that would rob His creation of splendor and satisfaction He intended for it.
 - **Nothing and no one feels toward you what God feels toward you.**
- b. He is pitiful toward His people. – vs. 18
 - It is not that He “pities us fools”...
 - Pity is to communicate compassion and sympathy toward or too spare in mercy.
- c. He hears those who call on Him in repentance. – vs. 19
Notice reproach in vs. 17 and 19.
- d. He is eager to restore and overwhelming in His attention toward His people. – vs. 20

2. The response reflects the character of God in those who have been restored.

- a. Favor with God banishes fear. – vs. 21-22
- b. Mercy from God produces gladness and rejoicing. – vs. 23-25
- c. Satisfaction in God leads to a deeper relationship with Him. – vs. 26-27

Has God’s nature and actions toward us produced these things in our lives?

If you are a Christian, God has restored you as a new creation. What is new about your life?

Does God’s restoration in your life now point well to God’s restoration of all things in the “that day”?

3. Restoration is offered to all while there is time.

- This is the theme of verses 28-32
 - a. Notice those that are mentioned – sons, daughters, old men, young men, servants, handmaids – vs. 28-29
 - b. There is an end to this opportunity – vs. 30-31
 - c. “Whosoever shall call” transports us from being restored into a ministry of restoration.

The “Gospel on the Ground” (our story) points toward the “Gospel in the Air” (God’s story) as we have been called to be the “Gospel on Display” (our lives for His glory).

Kid’s Section

1. Who was Joel?

2. What happened in Israel that Joel talked a lot about?

3. What did Joel tell the people to do about their problem?

4. According to Joel, who can call on God to be saved?

