



## Group Guide

### Joel

*August 11, 2024*

**Main Passage:** Joel 1:13-20; 2:1-32

### Theological Theme

God sent the prophet Joel to preach a message of repentance and warning to the people of Judah who were living sinful lives.

### Introduction

- ❓ How do you typically respond when the surrounding world seems chaotic?
- ❓ How have you experienced the reality of “safety in numbers”?

### 1. Troubles and Repentance (Joel 1:13-20)

At the beginning of this book, Joel spent time describing the condition of the land. Instead of beginning by prophesying about what was to come, he pointed out what was occurring at the time. The land had suffered a plague of locusts, a devastating reality for an agricultural society.

- ❓ What might cause God’s people to recognize the need for repentance today? Why is it important that we respond rightly in these moments?
- ❓ What are specific ways we can act in repentance today?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to stop trying to fix on your own and cry out to God about?

### 2. The Day of the Lord (Joel 2:1-17)

The first chapter of Joel described what had taken place in Judah. Chapter two warned about what will happen in the ultimate day of the Lord. Those who are right with the Lord look forward to His coming. They long for God to show His power and might, confident of their place with Him.

- ❓ Why is it important to recognize the opportunity for repentance and not let it pass by?

- ❓ How has God shown His mercy in your life? Why should this prompt us to tell others about His goodness?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to be reminded of God's grace and compassion today?

### 3. Restoration (Joel 2:18-32)

After giving dire warnings and painting a bleak picture of what to expect if they refused to repent, Joel's message changed tone. The Lord wanted His people to know if they responded rightly, He would renew their land and restore His relationship with them. Imagine how encouraging those words would be for a weary, fearful people surrounded by thousands of dead locusts from the recent plague.

- ❓ When have you been reminded of the Lord's heart for you, even in a season where you needed to repent?
- ❓ What do you need God to renew and restore in your life? How do you need to cry out to Him about this?
- ❓ Application: How do you need to apply this study to your life today?

### Conclusion

- ❓ Joel gave a detailed description of how the people were supposed to repent of their sins. What does repentance look like in our lives?
- ❓ What does today's passage indicate about the way God will surely respond when His people repent, return, pray, fast, and seek Him?
- ❓ What does the prophecy in the book of Joel teach you about God? About His character? About His actions?