

Series: Beauty from Pain, a study in Joel

Sermon: Reacting to Pain

Primary Text: Joel 1

Discussion guide:

- What is one of the hardest things you've ever had to go through?
 - Did anything good come from it?
- Read James 1:2-4 and John 12:24 – what is the message of these texts?
 - According to James what sort of hardships develop steadfastness in us?
- Why do you think we learn and grow the most in or from hardship?
 - Why do we sometimes not learn in our hardship?
- Read Joel 1.
 - What jumps out at you?
 - What do you think Joel's point is?
- read Joel 1:13
 - How is lamenting and putting sackcloth an appropriate response to hardship?
- Read Joel 1:14
 - What is the point of fasting?
 - How is this an appropriate response to hardship?
 - What does it mean to “cry out to the Lord”?
- Read Joel 1:15
 - What is “the Day of the Lord”?
 - Why should we remember that it is near in our time of hardship?
- Joel calls on Israel to lament and mourn separation from God, fast to draw near to God, cry out to the Lord, and remember the day of the Lord is near in response to hardship.
 - With each of these: how do you do them individually – how and under what circumstances would we do this corporately?