



Discussion Questions

Joel 3

Sermon: The Valley of Verdict

- ❖ ***The Judgment of the Nations (Joel 3:1-14)***
 - An assault on God's people is an assault on God Himself (vv. 1-6).
 - The brutality of sin will be punished with equal precision (vv. 7-14).
 - **Question:** How is this passage informing your view of God's judgment? Do you see His judgment as the rescue and salvation of his people, or only condemnation?
- ❖ ***The Rejuvenation of Jerusalem (Joel 3:15-21)***
 - God's people are safe because God is fiercely protective of them (vv. 15-16).
 - The future of God's people is the presence of God, and His presence is paradise. (vv. 17-21).
 - **Question:** In the unavoidable troubles of life, where do you find comfort? In passing pleasures and distractions or in the presence of God and hope of Jesus Christ's return?
- ❖ **Bottom Line: Even when circumstances seem hopeless, God's judgment and salvation will prevail.**

Understanding Scripture

1. **Read the passage aloud.**
 - **Question:** How would the original audience have understood this passage?
 - **Question:** What was God's desire for them?
2. **Reread key verse(s) aloud.**
 - **Question:** What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
 - **Question:** What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?
3. **Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.**
 - i. Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
 - ii. Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
 - iii. If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.
4. **Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Joel...")**
 - **Question:** What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
 - **Question:** How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Applying Scripture

5. **Allow free-flowing discussion, incorporating questions focused on heart and habit transformation.**
 - **Joel 3:1-6** | In verses 1-6, what ways do we see that an assault on God's people is an assault on God himself? Why do you think God takes the other nations' actions against His people so personally?
 - **Joel 3:7-14** | What are your thoughts when God says "I will return on your own heads what you have done"? How are we, as Christians, supposed to respond when we see others facing the consequences and results of their sin? Judgementally? Compassionately? Something else entirely? How do you feel like responding?
 - **Joel 3:15-16** | How do these two verses show God's justice and His mercy? When have you experienced God's protection and/or presence in a season of trouble? Where, outside of God and His word, are you tempted to look to for safety during difficult times?
 - **Joel 3:17-21** | How do these verses here describe the renewal and restoration that God brings? How often do you meditate on the hope of dwelling with God forever? Do you live your life knowing that God is not only going to dwell with us, but that he also is with us and walks with us every day now? What would change in your life if you started to live with this in mind?
 - **Application** | How can you practically center this coming week around the fact that God's salvation and justice will prevail? What adjustments will you make? What challenges do you see coming from these changes? Who can you encourage this week with these simple, yet powerful, truths?