



Discussion Questions

Joel 2:1-17

Sermon: Rend Your Hearts

- ❖ **Jerusalem's Severe Warning (Joel 2:1-11)**
 - The day of the Lord is announced as an unstoppable army that God is leading against His own people. (vv.1-2)
 - The day of the Lord is all-encompassing. It cannot be escaped by human means. (vv.3-11)
 - **Question:** Have you ignored the clear warnings of Scripture? How is the Lord calling you to respond?
- ❖ **The Lord is Ready to Relent from Disaster (Joel 2:12-17)**
 - Rend your hearts and return to the God who loves to relent from punishment. (vv.12-14)
 - **Question:** What draws you to repentance? Is it fear of consequence or God's compassion?
 - While there is still time for good news, all must respond to this urgent call to return to the Lord. (vv.15-17)
- ❖ **Bottom Line: The Lord's compassion invites His people to return to Him.**

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 2:1-2,11** | Why does Joel describe the Day of the Lord as a day of darkness and gloom? Why can it be easy for us to assume that God's judgement is more so for "other people", rather than for ourselves?
 - **Joel 2:3-10** | How does Joel's description of the army in this passage emphasize the seriousness of sin and the judgment that follows it?
 - **Joel 2:11-14** | What does it say about God's character that He warns His people about the incoming judgement rather than just simply executing it? How should God's people respond to His warnings?
 - **Joel 2:12-14** | What does it mean to "rend your hearts and not your garments"? What are some common examples you see today of individuals rending garments and not their hearts? Do you have relationships in your life that can speak truth to you and challenge you when your repentance is surface-level?
 - **Joel 2:15-17** | What does corporate repentance look like for the body of Christ as a whole? For this small group? How can this be done urgently, while also being done in patience and in grace?
 - **Application** | What are some ways you can seek God and return to Him this week? What are some ways you can do this not alone, but with others in this group?