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Joel 1:1

Message: A Recipe for Life

Big Idea: God speaks so people will turn to Him & live.

1:1 The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

1. The LORD speaks to people.

Joel's name means "Jehovah is God".

Jehovah is from the Germanic pronunciation of the Latinized transliteration of the Hebrew YHWH.

YHWH is called the tetragrammaton, the 4 letters of God's name.

Exodus 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " 15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The **Lord** God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.' 16 Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The **Lord** God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and *seen* what is done to you in Egypt; 17 and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'" '

2. The LORD speaks thru people.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

I Corinthians 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

This is one of the key ideas of Joel God speaks to people thru His word and by His Spirit.

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15** These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! **16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all

people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

3. The LORD desires to speak through you.

2 Chronicles 16:9. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him

NLT I Corinthians 12:1 Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. **2** You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols. **3** So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit. **4** There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. **5** There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. **6** God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. **7** A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. **8** To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. **9** The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. **10** He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. **11** It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

When discerning God's word...does it...

1. Align with God's written Word.
2. Bear the fruit of the Spirit.
3. Glorify Jesus as Lord.
4. Lead to an abundant life with God.

Joel's recipe for life: Apply 5 minutes daily.

- Return** to Him w/all your heart.
- Turn** to Him where you are not in line with Him.
- Receive** what He speaks & do what He says.

LIFE Group Guide

General Timeline Guide: (Adjust as appropriate for your group's needs.)

5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.

45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.

5-10 minutes praying for each other

Message Summary:

Could an ancient prophet's message help us hear God's voice today? In this introduction to Joel, we discover the timeless truth that God still speaks, not just in ancient scrolls, but through ordinary people filled with His Spirit. Whether you're seeking direction or longing to be used by God, this message unlocks the exciting possibility that God wants to speak not just to you, but through you.

Discussion Questions

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
 2. Do you ever really think about "hearing from God"? Why or why not? What are some challenges you might face if you hyper spiritualize everything or never think spiritually about anything?
Revelation 3:22
 3. When you think of turning to the Lord, what comes to mind? John 10:10
 4. The gifts of the Spirit are for the benefit of the church body. Some people avoid the gifts while others overemphasize them. How can we use them rightly? I Cor. 12:7
 5. Discernment is a process we practice and learn. How can these tests help us do that? Does it: Align with God's written Word. Bear the fruit of the Spirit. Glorify Jesus as Lord. Lead to an abundant life with God. Galatians 5:22
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5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. Together, we'll explore the timeless message from the book of Joel and reflect on how it applies to our personal lives and spiritual journeys. Join us each day as we seek to understand God's call to "Return to me and live."

Day 1

Scripture: Joel 1:1

Today's message centers around understanding that "The Word of the Lord" came to Joel. It signifies how God initiates communication with us, not just historically but continually. This passage reminds us that the Lord speaks to us in our present contexts, offering guidance and revelation through His chosen people over time. God's immutable and eternal voice calls us to listen, obey, and abide with Him.

As Joel declared God's words in his time, we are reminded that God's message is meant for all ages. It transcends time, urging people to return and live in harmony with God. This message challenges us to listen deeply and follow the path laid out for us, not just as passive hearers but as active disciples.

- How do I currently discern and listen to God's messages in my life?
- In what ways can I better position myself to hear God through scripture and prayer?
- Am I responding to God's calls with obedience and action? How can I improve in this area?
- Pray for a receptive heart that hears God's word and acts upon it.
- Ask God for the courage and strength to follow His lead, even when it's challenging.

Day 2

Scripture: Exodus 3:14

In Exodus, God reveals Himself as "I AM," portraying His self-existence and eternal nature. This name serves as a powerful reminder of His omnipresence and authority over all creation. The message captures the heart of the divine and its profound reach through generations, bridging the past with the present.

Our relationship with God, like that of the Israelites, should be characterized by trust and recognition of His sovereignty. As we align ourselves with the Great I AM, we unite ourselves with the eternal source of life, strength, and purpose. This boundless relationship invites us to deepen our faith and lean into His devotion as our Creator and Redeemer.

- What does it mean for me personally to recognize God as the Great I AM?
- Reflect on a time you experienced God's eternal presence in your life. How did it strengthen your faith?
- How can I remind myself daily of God's supreme authority and guidance?
- Pray to feel God's eternal presence daily and grow in faith through His unchanging nature.
- Request His wisdom to comprehend His timeless message and apply it to your life's context.

Day 3

Scripture: Acts 2:17

As Peter recalls the prophet Joel's words, he describes a future where God's Spirit is poured out on all people. This prophetic declaration urges us to consider the emerging and diverse ways in which God speaks through individuals today. It echoes the value of community, empowering believers to prophesy, see visions, and dream dreams.

God's desire to engage us involves giving each of us a unique role to play through the Holy Spirit. Such divine empowerment invites collective participation as His church, fostering a greater sense of unity and purpose. By embracing our spiritual gifts and working together, we can fulfill God's vision for reaching and teaching others.

- What is my role in God's vision for spreading His message as an active part of His church?
- How am I currently using my spiritual gifts to serve others and glorify God?
- In what ways can I contribute to a stronger, unified community of believers?
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's anointing and guidance as you seek to use your unique gifts for His purposes.
- Lift up your local church community in prayer, asking God to unite you all in mission and vision.

Day 4

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:13

The guidance from Paul speaks to the inner workings of the Holy Spirit, highlighting how spiritual truths are revealed in ways that human wisdom cannot decipher alone. This scripture emphasizes

the importance of spiritual discernment, underscoring our reliance on divine understanding over worldly intellect.

In partnership with the Holy Spirit's insights, we become carriers of God's message, equipped for His service. When we open ourselves up to the Spirit's wisdom, we find that God speaks to us and through us with clarity, empowering us to serve with authenticity and grace.

- How do I differentiate between worldly wisdom and spiritual discernment in my day-to-day life?
- In what ways can I align myself more with the guidance of the Holy Spirit over my own instincts?
- What spiritual truths have reshaped my understanding and perspective recently?
- Seek God's spirit for continued growth in spiritual awareness and discernment.
- Pray for opportunities to share the wisdom and understanding you receive with others.

Day 5

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Paul describes the diversity of spiritual gifts, unified by the same Spirit and intended for the common good. This scripture encourages us to embrace the variety of gifts God provides, understanding that they are tools for building the body of Christ and serving our communities effectively.

Each of us is uniquely crafted and called to contribute something special to God's kingdom.

Through a blend of service, wisdom, and faith, His vision unfolds. By recognizing and utilizing our spiritual gifts, we fulfill God's design and extend His love and grace to all we encounter.

- What spiritual gifts have I recognized in my life, and how am I using them?
- Reflect on how diversity of gifts in your community enhances the mission of the church.
- How can I obtain a better understanding of the gifts given to others to support and encourage their use?
- Thank God for the unique blessings He has bestowed upon you to serve others.
- Pray for the ability to support and celebrate the gifts of others, fostering a strengthened community of faith.