

Pastor Jason Huffman
11/23/2025
Joel: 2:15-27

Restoration & Rejoicing

Big Idea: Restoration is God's process that happens in partnership. It happens after we return to Him & leads to rejoicing in Him.

Joel 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; 16 gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room.

1. Return & pursue the Lord.

The most important thing we can do in our life is pursue God.

17 Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples 'Where is their God?' "

2. Seek God's mercy & glory.

We don't want our consequences to cloud God's glory.

18 Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, and pity His people. 19 The Lord will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

The time of chastening will come to a close.

His time is not always our time, but it is the right time for His plan & purpose.

20 "But I will remove far from you the northern *army*, and will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, with his face toward the eastern sea and his back toward the western sea; his stench will come up, and his foul odor will rise, because he has done monstrous things."

Just because God allows something doesn't mean He approves of it. He may use something for His purposes, but He will also judge it according to His standards.

21 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done marvelous things! 22 Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; for the open pastures are springing up, and the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their strength.

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. 24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

3. Rejoice in God's marvelous works.

This is not just about ignoring the bad things, it is about seeing the marvelous things He has done.

25 "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you.

26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame.

27 Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel: I *am* the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.

This is the restoration that comes from repentance & returning & ends with rejoicing in the Lord.

God didn't send the locust to destroy you.

LIFE Group Guide for Joel 2:15-27 – Restoration & Rejoicing

Message Summary: Join us as we explore God's heart for restoration, revealing how even seasons of loss can lead to renewal. Through Joel's message, we discover that God partners with us in the process of restoration and transforms our defeats into opportunities for His glory.

General Timeline: (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

Ice breaker: Would you rather restore something old or buy it new?

Discussion Questions:

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas. You may not get to every question during group time but speak up if you want to talk about one in particular. Start with #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. In what way is your pursuit of the Lord visible for others to see or follow?
3. In the message, we discussed wanting to glorify God in front of unbelievers. Have you ever thought about how an unbeliever might view your life or relationship with God?
4. How might your prayers and requests to God change if you focused more on His glory than your own needs?
5. Where in your life can you rejoice in God's marvelous work of restoration?
6. What does this verse teach us about God, and how does it speak to you? Joel 2:27 "Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame."

5-Day Devotional: Restoration & Rejoicing**Day 1: Admitting Our Need**

Reading: Joel 2:12-13; Luke 5:31-32

Devotional: Restoration begins with honesty. Before God can stand us back up, we must acknowledge we've fallen. Before He can strengthen us, we must admit our weakness. Jesus didn't come for those who pretend to be well, but for those who recognize their spiritual sickness. The religious leaders couldn't receive healing because they refused to admit their need. Today, consider where pride might be blocking your restoration. What areas of brokenness have you been hiding or denying? God's mercy awaits those humble enough to say, "I need You." Restoration isn't about perfection; it's about honest partnership with a God who loves to heal the broken. Your admission of need isn't weakness—it's the doorway to divine strength.

Day 2: Pursuing God Together

Reading: Joel 2:15-16; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Devotional: Joel's call to restoration included everyone—elders, children, brides, and bridegrooms. No one received a pass because pursuing God is the single most important thing we can do. Your spiritual life impacts every relationship around you. Children learn more from what we prioritize than what we preach. Marriages thrive when both partners pursue Christ more passionately than they pursue each other. Your workplace needs your integrity born from genuine faith. Consider today: What are you teaching others to follow by your example? What do your calendar and conversations reveal about your priorities? Restoration isn't a solo journey. When families and communities collectively turn toward God, transformation multiplies. Make pursuing the Lord your primary goal, and watch how it strengthens every other area of life.

Day 3: Seeking Mercy and Glory

Reading: Joel 2:17; Psalm 115:1-3

Devotional: The priests wept between the porch and altar, seeking mercy not based on their merit but on God's glory and their relationship with Him. They understood something profound: caring about God's reputation matters. But even better than seeking His glory after we sin is honoring it before we sin. How we live either clarifies or confuses others about who God truly is. When unbelievers see believers living in persistent sin or God's discipline, they question, "Where is their God?" Your life is a testimony—not of your perfection, but of God's transforming power. Today, before making decisions, ask: "Will this bring glory to God?" Let concern for His name guide your choices. When we genuinely love God, we naturally want Him rightly represented. Seek His mercy when you fail, but seek His glory in all you do.

Day 4: Rejoicing in Marvelous Works

Reading: Joel 2:21-24; Luke 17:11-19

Devotional: After judgment came restoration, and with restoration came rejoicing. "The Lord has done marvelous things!" God didn't just remove the locusts; He restored the land with abundance. Restoration includes recognizing and celebrating God's marvelous works. You will find what you're looking for—if you search for problems, you'll find them; if you look for God's goodness, you'll discover it everywhere. Don't ignore difficulties, but don't overlook the marvelous either. What has God done in your life? Where has He provided, protected, or transformed? Rejoicing in the Lord—not just in circumstances—drives out fear of the future. Today, list three marvelous things God has done. Let gratitude replace anxiety. Your joy in Him becomes strength for tomorrow.

Day 5: Restored After the Locusts

Reading: Joel 2:25-27; Romans 8:28

Devotional: "I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten." This is God's heart—not destruction, but restoration. Sometimes He allows difficulties to wake us up, to reveal our sin, or to strengthen our faith. The locusts weren't meant to destroy you but to redirect you. God works all things together for good for those who love Him. What the enemy meant for harm, God redeems for His glory and your growth. Maybe you thought certain relationships, dreams, or callings were permanently lost. But with God, if there's breath, there's hope. He raises the dead. Restoration may not look identical to what was lost, but God brings beauty from ashes and life from death. The shame is gone. What area of your life feels devastated by "locusts"? Trust that God's restoration process is underway. Your story isn't over—He's writing a testimony of His faithfulness through your life.