



Joel

May 31, 2026

Ice Breaker

What is a TV show, movie series, or book series you started in the middle or out of order, and how did that affect your experience of the story?

Key Verses

- Joel 2:18-32
- Matthew 24:29

Questions

The Pastor compared reading the New Testament without the Old Testament to watching Star Wars out of order. In what ways have you personally felt confused or like you were missing something when reading the Bible?

He described the Minor Prophets as one of the more neglected sections of Scripture. Why do you think so many Christians skip over the Minor Prophets? What has held you back from reading them?

Joel 2:18 describes God being zealous for His land and His people. What does it mean to you that God has a righteous, protective jealousy on behalf of those He loves?

The Pastor made the point that not every part of the Bible is directly about you or applies to you personally. How does that idea challenge or change the way you approach reading Scripture?

The sermon discussed the concept of replacement theology, the idea that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan. Based on what was shared from Joel 2, how does this passage challenge or inform your view of God's ongoing relationship with Israel?

In Joel 2:23, the Pastor took some time to address the phrase “early rain for your vindication”, and that the Hebrew is probably better translated as “Teacher for righteousness”. How does this relate to Isaiah 30:19-20, 23, and does this influence your interpretation of the verse?

Joel 2:25 speaks of God compensating Israel for the years the locusts had eaten. What does it tell us about God's character that He promises to restore and repay what was lost during times of judgment and suffering?

The Pastor drew a parallel between Anakin Skywalker's redemption story and God's plan to redeem and restore Israel. How does the idea of a redeeming storyline in Scripture encourage you when you look at your own failures or the brokenness in the world?

The sermon closed with the reminder that the best is yet to come, both for Israel and for believers in Jesus. How does that future hope practically shape the way you live, make decisions, or endure hardship today?

Life Application

This week, commit to reading the book of Joel. As you read, write down at least one thing that surprises you, one question it raises, and one connection you notice to the New Testament. Bring those observations to share with your group next time you meet.

Key Takeaways

The Minor Prophets are one of the more neglected parts of Scripture, yet the New Testament authors and Jesus Himself frequently reference them. Reading them unlocks deeper understanding of the whole Bible.

Joel 2:18-32 is specifically addressed to the 'sons of Zion,' meaning Jewish people in Jerusalem, and carries clear end times implications about the Tribulation, the Millennial Kingdom, and God's final restoration of Israel.

The phrase Teacher for righteousness in Joel 2:23 points to a future time when Israel will recognize Jesus as their Messiah, suggesting God is not finished with His chosen people.

God's covenant loyalty to Israel was never based on their performance or faithfulness. It is rooted entirely in His own character and His promise keeping nature, which is equally true for all who trust in Him.

The best is yet to come. Whether you are a believer living today or an Israelite enduring the Tribulation, God's redemptive story is moving toward a glorious conclusion, and His promises will not fail.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the time we have spent together in Your Word today. Thank You that You are a God who keeps every promise You have ever made, to Israel, to us, and to all who call on Your name. As we leave this discussion, help us carry with us a deeper hunger for Scripture, especially the parts we have avoided or overlooked. Remind us in our daily struggles that Your covenant loyalty does not depend on our perfection but on Your faithfulness. And when life feels heavy or confusing, anchor our hearts in the truth that the best is yet to come. Send us out with renewed hope and a greater love for Your whole story. In the name of Jesus, amen.