

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 30 April 2023



J O E L

Restoration
Joel 2:18-32

SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:18-32

OVERVIEW

After a time of devastation for the Israelites and a call to repentance, Joel predicts a time of restoration and a future time of outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 17 of chapter 2 asked the question –
"Where is your God?"

The sermon centred on words from Pete Grieg's Sabbath Blessing Prayer:

*May God's image in me be restored
And my imagination in God be restored*

When the Israelites repented, God restored to them the things he had taken away. We know that complete restoration will not come until Jesus comes again when there will be no more pain, every tear will be wiped away and all things will be new.

Restoration in our lives is part of the renewing process of God – establishing his image in us. God was re-establishing his image, presence and honour.

God promises not just a physical restoration but a spiritual restoration and Joel's prophecy of God pouring out his Spirit on all people regardless of age, class or gender was fulfilled several hundred years later on the Day of Pentecost. We live in these days of the Spirit. God is in the midst of us and there is none like him.

QUESTIONS

Some possible questions/points for discussion, please choose those most appropriate for your group.

- Considering the Sabbath prayer, was there any aspect of God's image restored or imagination in God restored that spoke to you?
- How open and honest are we before God and how does this help or hinder his restoration in us?
- Share examples of restoration and give thanks.
- If appropriate, share areas where restoration is needed and pray
- How has your life been affected by the Holy Spirit?
- How much do you think the Holy Spirit is involved in your life outside of Church? Share aspects of your "frontline" that you could particularly bring to God? In what ways can you "speak God" to people there?
- As a small group consider how together you can show the image of God, bring restoration to others and "speak God" to others