

1. What (if anything) did you know about the book of Joel heading into this series?
2. Read Joel 1:1-7 — ***Wake Up to the Reality of Brokenness.***
 - a. In Verse 1, Joel emphasizes that his prophecy is “the word of the Lord.” How does this truth affect how we listen to difficult scripture or challenging messages?
 - b. Why do we need to remember that brokenness is unavoidable in our fallen world?
 - c. Why does God often have to remove what we rely on to reveal what we’ve ignored?
 - d. Can you recall a time in your own life when God used hardship to get your attention? Why is it dangerous to “hit the snooze button” spiritually when God is trying to wake us up?
3. Read Joel 1:8-14 — ***Wake Up to the Call to Repentance.***
 - a. In Verse 8, Joel uses the image of a bride-to-be mourning her fiancé’s death. What does this tell us about the depth of sorrow we should have over our sin?
 - b. How does unrepented sin affect not only our personal lives but also our spiritual lives, as seen in Verses 9-10?
 - c. Joel calls for a corporate fast in Verses 13-14. Why do you think public repentance is important in addition to private confession?
4. Read Joel 1:15-20 — ***Wake Up to the Urgency of the Hour.***
 - a. “The day of the Lord” can refer to both present events and future judgment. How does understanding both help us take God’s warnings seriously?
 - b. In verse 20, even the wild animals are pictured as crying out to God. Why is it significant that creation itself responds to God’s judgment?
 - c. Why is urgency such an important part of the gospel message? What happens when we put off responding to God’s call?
 - d. How does Jesus provide the only safe shelter from the ultimate “day of the Lord”?
5. If God is sounding an alarm in your life right now, what might he be trying to wake you up to? Who in your life needs to hear this wake-up call, and how might you lovingly share it with them?

Next Week: Joel 2:1-32



GOD SAID



I HEARD



I WILL