Restoring Hope
Joel 2:25-26

Slide 1: Passage

Slide 2: Locust: The Destructive Path

- The destruction by locust represents the loss of life

- One swarm could be responsible for 90sq mile of destruction

Slide 3: Restoration According to the Bible

Psalm 23:3: “He restores my soul.”

Psalm 51:12: “Restore to me the joy of your salvation.”

Jeremiah 30:17: “For I will restore health to you…”

Job 42:10: “And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends.”

1 Peter 5:10: “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

2 Corinthians 13:9: “For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for.”

Slide 4: God can restore what has been broken

Slide 5: What stops us from seeking restoration/How God gets our attention

Loss : everything they depended on was taken away. (Joel 1:4)

Ruin : what had been built was torn down. (Joel 1:7)

Emptiness : joy and fruitfulness disappeared. (Joel 1:10,12)

Warning : God used the crisis to call His people back to Himself (Joel 1:15)

Slide 6: A call for Restoration (Joel 2:12-13)

Slide 7: The Promise of Restoration (Joel 2:24-25)

God Longs to Deliver His People

God is ready to reverse the devastation described in Joel 1:4.

Slide 8: Lost or Destructive Years can look different

Unproductive years. You poured in time, effort, and energy, but what you hoped for never came together. The result was disappointment and a sense that those years were wasted.

Pain-filled years. You have walked through loss, grief, sickness, anxiety, or deep emotional pain that has marked a season of your life.

Self-focused years. Looking back, you realize how much time was spent chasing your own plans, comfort, or desires rather than what mattered most.

Broken years. Relationships fractured, someone you love walked away, or loneliness became part of your story. You look back and wonder how much time has been lost.

Slide 9: Lost or Destructive Years can look different

Wandering years. You knew better, but you chose another path. Those decisions left behind regret, guilt, and consequences you still feel today.

Misguided years. You look back and wonder where things changed. Your mind fills with "If only…" and "I wish I had…" but the opportunity has passed.

Years without Christ. Any season lived apart from Christ ultimately leaves us missing the One who gives life its deepest purpose and meaning.

Slide 10: The reward of restoration (Joel 2:26-27)

Provision: God meets what has been lost with abundance.
Worship: God's restoration leads His people to praise.
Presence: God does not merely restore what was lost; He restores closeness with Himself.
Freedom: God replaces shame and condemnation with peace and grace.
Power: God gives His Holy Spirit so His people can live differently going forward.

Slide 11:
"God can do what seems impossible. He promises to restore what has been lost. You cannot get the years back, but God can still bring fruit out of what feels wasted. He can give new blessing, new purpose, and new growth from seasons you thought were gone forever. The years may be past, but their fruit does not have to be lost." Charles Spurgeon