

August 23rd 2015
Read the Bible for Life
www.2.bhpublishinggroup.com/readthebible/
Family Sermon Notes

Repenting of Sin & Turning to God

Memory Verse: Joel 2:32a: And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

READ

- The name Joel may be translated, “Yahweh is God.” God sent Joel to proclaim “the day of the LORD” or judgment on Israel and all nations. He offers a message of hope and reconciliation for those who truly repent and turn to God.
- Read Joel 2:1-11. Joel describes the judgment of God. The imagery may refer to an army of locusts or to the Babylonian army. Regardless of whom it refers to, the point is that the judgment will be great and unbearable.
- Read Joel 2:12-17. What does God call the people to do to avoid judgment and destruction?
- Read Joel 2:18-27. After calling for repentance, Joel describes how God will have pity when they repent.
- Read Joel 2:28-32. Read Jeremiah 31:31-33. God will secure restoration with His children by sending His Spirit to change the hearts of all His children. Judgment will come upon all the earth, but some will be saved. Who shall be saved?
- Read Acts 2:14-24, 37-38. On the day of Pentecost, God fills the apostles with the Holy Spirit. Peter then proclaims the gospel to all who are gathered in Jerusalem, and he quotes Joel 2:28-32. In verse 37, we see that the crowd was “cut to the heart.” Jeremiah 31 and Joel 2 are beginning to be fulfilled as God’s Spirit changes the hearts and minds of His children. Later in Acts, we see that God also pours out His Spirit on Gentiles. The prophecies in Joel and Jeremiah have already begun to be fulfilled!

The Bottom Line: Repentance precedes mercy and forgiveness.

Questions:

1. How does a person return to God with all his or her heart?
2. How does a church return to God with all their heart?
3. Why does God require fasting, weeping and mourning?
4. Why does God want them to “rend” (tear) their hearts and not their garments? What does that mean?
5. God is “gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.” Is this statement true? Give examples of how we have already seen God display these characteristics this year in our daily Bible reading.
6. Is God seeking the repentance of individuals only? What does Joel call the whole congregation to do together?
7. How will God restore His people?
8. Why will God restore His people? See verse 27.

Family Name: _____

Date Completed: _____