

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Have you ever read the book of Joel before?

What did you hear in the sermon that surprised you?

Does reading about God's judgment scare you or reassure you?

How do you feel about the sin in your own life?

How often do you spend time repenting before God?

FASTING, FOR THE CHRISTIAN, IS DESIGNED TO EXPRESS AND CULTIVATE A LONGING FOR GOD. WE DO NOT FAST TO GAIN FAVOR WITH GOD, BUT AS A GRATEFUL RESPONSE TO THE FAVOR HE HAS ALREADY SHOWN US IN JESUS.



WEEK 3

JOEL

VIDEO RECAP

Small Group starter videos can be found on the Christ Church website under small group resources.

SERMON RECAP

Joel's Story

We don't know when it was written

Unique because God does not accuse Israel of specific sin

Assures Israel it ends well for those who follow God

In chapters 1 and 2 Joel talks about the Day of the Lord

a big theme in the prophets and code for a time when God steps in and judges evil.

What we Learn from Joel

Problem of sin

A call for repentance

God's faithfulness and love

Responses to God

Fasting

Trust

Baptism

BIBLE EXPLORATION

**HE DOESN'T WANT A SHOW.
HE WANTS GENUINE CHANGE.
HE WANTS THE PEOPLE
TO STOP THE SELFISHNESS
AND EVIL.**

Read out loud -Joel 2:12-18

Notes about the reading

This call to repent is setup by telling the people to remember the past sins

The locust invasion is an analogy to the problem of sin

Creates a sense of dread that no one can endure

Gods solution is for the people to repent

Verse 13 – “your hearts, not your garments”
God is telling us it needs to be sincere, which means it can be faked

Verses 14-17 – help us understand what sincere repentance may look like

Verse 18 – we see God’s love in his response of jealousy and pity

Questions

Repentance as a solution demonstrates a dependence on God. Why is this so hard for people?

What is the difference between sincere and fake repentance?

What are some of the examples Joel gives of repentance?

What can we learn about God’s love from verse 14?

Jealous for the land and pity for the people.

What does this passage reveal about ourselves?

**IT HAS LONG BEEN CLEAR TO ME
THAT I AM OFTEN MORE
CONCERNED WITH THE PAIN SIN
CAUSES – OR THE FACT THAT
IT MAKES ME FEEL BAD OR
WEAK OR ASHAMED – THAN I
AM WITH MY SIN.**