



## Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Joel 1:1-20

**Introduction:** What national tragedy or natural disaster will you always remember?

**Overview:** The book of Joel was written to the southern Kingdom of Judah concerning a devastating locust plague. This disaster came from God in order to wake up His people from their spiritual complacency. Even more, this immediate disaster was a picture of the Day of the Lord - when God will judge sin, restore the earth, and save His people. Ultimately Joel challenges us to consider our own complacency and to heed God's call to lament and repentance in our own generation.



### Into the Word

Verse 15 reveals that the disaster of the locust plague was meant to be a picture of the future Day of the Lord. Based on this passage, what awaits the unrepentant on the Day of the Lord?

Compare: Luke 13:1-5; 2 Peter 3:10

**Resource: Joel and the Invasion of the Locust**

In verse 6 God describes the complacency of His people as drunkenness. How are drunkenness and spiritual complacency similar?

Compare: 2 Peter 3:8-9; Ephesians 5:14

In verses 6, 13-14, and 19 God commands His people to respond to the locust plague with lament and repentance. How are lament and repentance related?

**Resource: Godly Grief**



### Into the Heart

What are signs that we are under the influence of spiritual complacency? Why might we become complacent about Christ's return?

Consider: 2 Peter 3:8-9; Matthew 24:1-12

**Read 1 Peter 1:6-7** How can God use our suffering to wake us up and purify our faith?

**Resource: Songs of Suffering**



### Into the World

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "God shouts to us in our pain...it is his megaphone to a deaf world." Do you agree? How do we see God using pain to turn people to Him?

Based on this passage, how do you think we should respond to local or national tragedies? What might this response look like personally or corporately?