



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Joel 2:18-27

Introduction: When has a struggle in your past prepared you well for the present?

Overview: In this passage Joel describes God's response to the repentance of His people. With holy jealousy and great pity, God comforts His people with promises of restoration. The years that the locust have eaten will be restored. This passage seeks to deepen our trust in God's promises so that through our seasons of grief God might produce seasons of repentance and life not death and regret.



Into the Word

In verse 18 Joel describes God as jealous. What is jealousy? How can jealousy be an expression of love? What earth relationships help us understand God's jealousy?

Compare: Exodus 34:14

Resource: What Does It Mean that God is Jealous?

Verse 18 tells us that God has pity on His repentant people. What is pity? Based on this passage, describe God's heart toward those who turn to Him in their grief and/or sin.

Compare: Isaiah 42:3; Matthew 12:19-21

Consider verses 25-27. List all the ways that God promises to restore His people.



Into the Heart

What season of your life do you grieve over? How will turning to the Lord for your past change how you move into the future?

Resource: God Can Restore Your Lost Years

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between repentance and regret? How do shame and regret hinder spiritual maturity? When do you need to remember that in Christ all your guilt and shame has been taken away?



Into the World

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 How can the pain of your past enable you to care for others?

Resource: God Brings Us Suffering for Others' Sake

Ultimately God's promise to restore our locust years will be fulfilled when Christ returns. however, God often gives His people a foretaste of this grace. How have you experienced God's restoring grace in your life?