

The Gospel according to Joel – Week commencing 6th August.

Home fellowship questions.

1. Read Joel 1:15, 2:1-2, 2:11-13, 3:14-16. Joel speaks of the Day of the Lord as both a day of judgment and restoration. How does this concept of the Day of the Lord shape our understanding of God's character?
2. What is your 'Theology of Disaster'? (The Theological implications and meanings of disasters and suffering – What is God doing when there is suffering and destruction? Does he cause suffering or allow it? Why doesn't he stop it? In what way are human actions directly or indirectly causing disasters?) Our Theology of disaster impacts our response to disaster. "'Just as earthquakes create aftershocks, natural disasters create religious aftershocks. Believers wrestle with doubts; unbelievers use disasters as justification for their refusal to believe in a loving God' (Lutzer 2011)"
3. How does the book of Joel help us develop a theology of disaster? Some other passages of interest (Matt 7:24-27, Luke 13:1-8, John 9:1-4, Gen 6:9-13, Romans 8:19-22, Rev 21:1-4)
4. In Joel 2:28-32, the prophet speaks of a coming Day of The Lord. In what ways does this prophecy find its fulfillment in the New Testament? (some bible verses to look up: Matt 27:45-54, Acts 2:1-4, Romans 10:13, Matt 25:31-36)
5. What disaster do we all face? Why? In Joel 1:11-13, God calls the people to return to Him with fasting, weeping, and mourning. What does genuine repentance look like? How can we cultivate a heart of repentance in our lives?
6. Throughout the book of Joel, God's mercy and compassion are highlighted. How do these attributes of God encourage us during times of difficulty and calamity? (Rom 8:10-21)
7. In Joel 3:14, there is a reference to the "valley of decision." What does this signify? What responsibility does this lay on us as Christ's Ambassadors (2 Cor 5:18-21)?