

GRACE GROUPS STUDY GUIDE FALL WEEK #6

Week of October 25, 2026 | Joel 1:1-20

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1-MIN OVERVIEW

God's people have just experienced a devastating plague of locusts that has destroyed their land, and disrupted their daily life and rhythms of worship. In our darkest days, God calls us to grieve what has been lost, come together in our sorrow, and cry out to Him for the hope and restoration that only He can provide.



WARM UP

1. *Is there a type of insect that you have strong opinions about, either positive or negative? What makes you love it or loathe it?*



KNOW IT

1. *To begin our study of Joel, watch the Bible Project video overview of this book as a group. You can use this link <https://bibleproject.com/videos/joel/> or simply google "Bible Project Joel" to find it.*
2. *Now that you have an overview of the whole book, read **Joel 1:1-20** and share your initial impressions. Do you notice any repeated words or striking imagery? How would you describe the general mood or tone of this chapter?*
3. *Locusts were a big deal in an agricultural society, and appear often in the Bible. Read **Exodus 10:3-6** and **Deuteronomy 28:15, 38-42** and discuss what could prompt God to send these insects in each scenario. Where do we see the consequences of turning away from God playing out in our world today?*



SHARE IT

1. *What do you notice about the extent of the devastation that Joel describes? How has it impacted the land and disrupted daily life for the people, specifically regarding their economic security and their worship routines?*

2. *What can we learn about God from this chapter? What does it tell us about His character, how He acts and what is important to Him?*
3. *Interestingly, Joel does not identify a specific sin that led to God's judgement in this case. Read **Hosea 8:3-4, Ezekiel 22:7-8, Isaiah 2:7-8, Jeremiah 6:13-14** and discuss some of Israel's behaviors and attitudes that other prophets were speaking out against. Do you notice any overlap with the ways Jesus challenged the seven churches in Revelation that we just finished studying?*



LIVE IT

1. *How are the people instructed to respond? Identify and discuss each of the commands God gives His people through Joel's message. What is challenging but ultimately restorative about following these instructions in the wake of a tragedy?*
2. *Have you ever experienced a struggle or tragedy that caused you to cry out to God, and how did He meet you in that season? How does the death and resurrection of Jesus give us confidence to cry out to God in the midst of devastating circumstances?*
3. *What is so important about sharing experiences like this with others, as Joel commands in **verse 3**, even if the circumstances haven't gotten any better yet?*

Suggested Daily Reading and Reflection

Passages: Day 1: Joel 1:1-20; Day 2: Psalm 145; Day 3: Revelation 9:3-11; Day 4: Amos 5:14-20

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Opening Prayer *Dear God, open my eyes so I may see wondrous things in your word. (Psalm 119:18). May your Holy Spirit help me to understand and apply it to my life for your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

 **Observe - 1st Reading** Read the passage to get the general flow. What does the passage say? Write 1-2 sentences summarizing key thoughts or themes. Also, write down a verse you think is significant.

 **Digging Deeper - 2nd Reading** Underline action words and repeated phrases. Answer the questions: Who... is the author? are the recipients? are the key people involved? What events, teachings, commands, or promises do you see? Why was the passage written? What problems are addressed?

 **Searching for Gold - 3rd Reading** Write down key words, themes, and observations. Dig for meaning in repeated phrases or theological terms. How does this passage ultimately point to Jesus?

 **Respond** Since God's Word is true, is there something new about God to ponder, commands to obey, promises to claim, sins to avoid, challenges to face, or examples to follow? Pick one of these and spend time reflecting on how this truth can affect the way you think and live.

 **Connect** with God on what you learned. Praise Him for who He is (consider the attributes of God revealed in today's reading). Thank Him for what He's done. Listen to Him. Confess sin. Bring requests to Him.



Memory Verse Choose one verse from reading and write it down each day.

LOOKING AHEAD - Get a head start on next week's readings and prepare for the upcoming sermon:

Day 1: Joel 2:1-17; Day 2: Revelation 6:12-17; Day 3: 2 Peter 3:8-13; Day 4: Matthew 24:29-31