GRACE GROUP STUDY GUIDE FALL WEEK #7

Week of November 1, 2026 | Joel 2:1-17

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1-MIN OVERVIEW

After the devastating locust plague in chapter 1, God's message through the prophet Joel warns the people of another impending invasion from an unstoppable force. Even as He prepares this invading army to enact His judgement, God graciously invites His people to return to Him in wholehearted repentance, entrusting themselves to His unfailing love and compassion.



WARM UP

1. *When have you missed or slept through an alarm and regretted it?*



KNOW IT

1. *Start by reading **Joel 2:1-11** together, and sharing your initial impressions. What strikes you about these verses, and how does it compare with what we read last week in chapter 1?*

2. *Discuss how Joel's vivid imagery in **verses 2-10** describes the impending invasion that Israel was facing. What can we tell about the invading army, and the people's chances of defending themselves? How do you think you'd feel knowing something like this was approaching?*

3. *According to **verse 11**, who commands this army? What does this reveal about God's character and what He cares about? How does this shape our understanding of "the Day of the Lord" and the events described in this passage?*



SHARE IT

1. *Now read **Joel 2:12-17** and share what stands out to you from these verses. How does the phrase "even now" in **verse 12** signal an infusion of hope into Joel's message? What is surprising about this invitation, particularly after the warnings we just read in verses 1-11?*

2. *What kind of response is God looking for from His people? Read **Ezekiel 18:21-23, 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, Psalm 51:16-17** and **1 John 1:8-9**. How do these verses help us understand what true repentance looks like, (and what it isn't!), and how God responds?*

3. *After telling His people how to repent, God reminds them why they should return to Him wholeheartedly. Read the attributes of God revealed in **verse 13**, and discuss how each of these characteristics encourages us to turn towards Him when we have sinned.*



LIVE IT

1. *What do you think Joel means when he says "who knows?" in **verse 14**? When we return to God in genuine repentance, should we expect Him to always remove the consequences of our sin? What can we trust about God and His forgiveness regardless of how our circumstances turn out?*

2. *Considering all the ways God has revealed Himself in **Joel 2:1-17**, what can be challenging about seeing His wrath and His compassion on display so close together? How does the work of Jesus on the cross help us to understand both God's judgment against sin and His mercy towards sinners?*

3. *Looking specifically at **verses 14** and **17**, what are the outcomes that Joel is hoping for as the people turn back to God? How is God glorified by forgiving and restoring His people? How does His mercy move you to worship Him and share the Good News with those who don't know Him yet?*

Suggested Daily Reading and Reflection

Passages: 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

Memory Verse: Joel 2:11-12

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 2:18-32; Day 2: Exodus 34:5-7; Day 3: Acts 2:16-21; Day 4: John 3:16-18