

## Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets
Sermon Title	The Day of the Lord
Bible Texts	Joel
Date	April 23, 2023

### CONNECT – Getting to know one another

Question 1: Imagine for a moment that you are a prophet of God. What prophetic word do you feel God would want to speak to his people at this time in history?

### EQUIP – Understanding God's word

#### *The Lord Judges His People*

Question 2: How does Joel describe Israel's physical and spiritual devastation (1:1-4)?

Question 3: What would it look like if Christians were spiritually desolate like Judah was during Joel's ministry?

#### *The Call to Repent*

Question 4: Why is it important that the priests be the first to repent (1:13-14)?

Question 5: Why do Christian leaders also need to take this warning seriously? (James 3:1)

Question 6: How does Joel describe true repentance for God's people (2:12-14)? What would this look like for Christians?

#### *Restoration*

Question 7: If Judah truly returned to God with their whole heart, what did God promise to do to restore the devastated land (2:18-27)? What did he promise to do to restore the people spiritually (2:28-32)?

Question 8: Joel 2:28-32 is familiar to us because it describes what happened at Pentecost (Acts 2:16-21). Might similar things happen as the end times unfold?

Question 9: What must people do to experience God's salvation according to Joel 2:32? Since Christ wasn't born yet, what are the people in Joel's time depending on for their salvation?

Question 10: Do you think it would have surprised Judah to hear that *all* people can be saved?

#### *The Day of the Lord*

Question 11: How does Joel describe "the day of the Lord"? (1:15; 2:1, 11)

Question 12: The "Day of the Lord" is an important theme in several prophets. Looking at a few of these references, what do they tell us about "that day"? (Is 13:6-11; Jer 46:10; Ob 15; Zeph 1:14-18; Zech 14:1-9; Mal 4:5)

Question 13: Joel likens the time of God's judgment on the nations to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (3:2, 12). How does the story in 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 inform Joel's prophecy?

Question 14: When the Lord judges the nations, people are forced to make a decision (3:14). Will this also apply to Christians?

Question 15: How does Joel 3:16 comfort you?

Question 16: How does Joel describe the final restoration? (3:17-21)

### DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

Question 17: The book of Joel was written almost 3,000 years ago. What value do you think his prophecy has for us today? How does it impact you as you ponder his prophecy?

Question 18: Difficult times are coming. How is this book comforting to us? Why is this a message of hope?

Question 19: What do you see as the key passages in Joel? How will they help to shape your faith and life?