



WEEKLY STUDY

Week One

Pastor Jacob returned to kick off this new series by sharing a profound experience of wisdom from above. During his recovery from a seizure in July, Jacob experienced a fresh understanding of the first few chapters of the Old Testament book, Joel. Joel was a prophet who spoke both to his own time and to ours. There was erosion of joy resulting from wave after wave of difficulties. But there was and is a promise of rescue and restoration.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

*O God,
It is true that I have been tired at times. I have become fixated on the things the locusts have destroyed.
I repent of having an eye to the gods of this world.
Today I fix my gaze on you. I look to you for rescue. I look to you for restoration and revival.
Amen*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOEL 1. 2-4

*Hear this, you elders;
listen, all who live in the land.
Has anything like this ever happened in your days
or in the days of your ancestors?
³ Tell it to your children,
and let your children tell it to their children,
and their children to the next generation.
⁴ What the locust swarm has left
the great locusts have eaten;
what the great locusts have left
the young locusts have eaten;*

*what the young locusts have left
other locusts have eaten.*

- Providence Church's physical campus is located in Mt. Juliet, TN. Mt. Juliet was one of the areas heavily impacted by a tornado in early March 2020. The massive clean-up and rebuilding effort began in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. All of this happened in an extremely divisive election year. It is safe to say that this community (like most of the world) has felt wave after wave of destruction and set-backs. The prophet Joel says that these kinds of times should not be forgotten. Tell your children and your children's children. What stories of hard times does your family pass along?
- *Pray for younger and future generations as they hear stories of difficult times.*

TUESDAY: JOEL 2.12-13

*"Even now," declares the Lord,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning."*

¹³ *Rend your heart*

and not your garments.

Return to the Lord your God,

for he is gracious and compassionate,

slow to anger and abounding in love,

and he relents from sending calamity.

- "Even now" says God. Even in times like this. It's not too late. We are not too far from God. We are invited to return to God—not pretending that we are ok, but with broken hearts. God's promise of grace and compassion is here in the words of the prophet Joel.
- *Thank God for His grace and compassion that meets those you rend their hearts and repent.*

WEDNESDAY: JOEL 2.19

The Lord replied to them:

*"I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil,
enough to satisfy you fully;*

never again will I make you

an object of scorn to the nations.

- The promise from a God who extends grace becomes a promise of provision and favor. No matter how far down you feel, this promise is spoken over you. It is for your good, and your fulfillment.
- *As you pray, call to mind the provisions that God has given you.*

THURSDAY: JOEL 2.23

*Be glad, people of Zion,
rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given you the autumn rains
because he is faithful.
He sends you abundant showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.*

- Whereas once the joy was gone, now Joel is calling for its return. What images does “autumn rain” bring up for you? How are rains in the Fall beneficial?
- *Thank God for his abundant showers in all seasons.*

FRIDAY: JOEL 2.25-27

*“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—
the great locust and the young locust,
the other locusts and the locust swarm¹—
my great army that I sent among you.*

²⁶ *You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,
and you will praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has worked wonders for you;
never again will my people be shamed.*

²⁷ *Then you will know that I am in Israel,
that I am the LORD your God,
and that there is no other;
never again will my people be shamed.*

- Pastor Jacob pointed out that the promise here is not just about the restoration of things that were lost, but also the time that was lost to the work of the locusts. God recognized that His people felt shame and humiliation when the locusts were destroying their livelihood. He stated that the shame would end.
- Focus on the promises of provision and restored image for God’s people. In prayer, consider what that looks like for you.

SATURDAY: JAMES 1.2-3

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

- The trials faced by God’s people are no easier than those faced by anyone else in the world. The difference is a faith that is strengthened in the face of tests. Do you see the connection between joy and perseverance in your life?
- *Pray for a spirit of joy in the midst of your trials.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob taught about the roar of God mentioned in Joel 3. The roar of God can be scary but beautiful. The roar of God can wake up our hearts to a great revival. Have you ever experienced the roar of God? Do you know what it feels like to have a sleepy heart?