



P.C.E.A. SUKARI PARISH

A Bible Study Guide on
**THE BOOK OF
JOEL**

VOLUME FIVE

THEME:

“So, I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you”

(Joel 2:25)

PREFACE

We are coming from the theme of being strong and courageous, drawn from the book of Joshua. This theme has charged us to be strong in God.

The theme of this season, January to March 2022, comes from a background of a myriad of challenges that have wreaked havoc globally for close to two years due to the coronavirus. This pandemic has brought about destruction and devastation of businesses, work, livelihoods, families, and the health of our people. It is within this background of experiences that God is bringing us a message of restoration from the book of Joel 2:25a that says *“And I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten...”*

As we go through this bible study, may we be grounded in hope of the Lord’s restoration who desires to change situations in our lives. Welcome to this journey as we study the book of Joel among other key texts that illuminate this book to us.

**Your Pastor and friend,
John Calvin Kamau (Rev.)**

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LESSON

1

THEME INTRODUCTION

(Joel 2:25)

The Book of Joel is well known for the invasion of locust plague upon Judah which affected the people with a severe drought that eventually ruined the economy. After a call to repentance, God promised them restoration and, in this study, we shall focus on the happenings in Judah and the promise of restoration.

Restoration means a comeback to a former situation or even to a better position. God is in the business of restoring us into former glory and also to take us to greater heights because he loves us.

1. Outline the things that had happened in Judah before the promise of restoration. (Joel 1:4, 6-7, 10.)

2. What does God through Prophet Joel call the people of Judah to do and what does God promise them? (Joel 1:13-14; 2:25-27)

3. Share some of the challenges you have been going through and the assurance God is giving you through this lesson.

Memory Verse

Joe; 2:25 "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you"

Notes

LESSON

2

THE POWER OF PRAYER AND FASTING
(Joel 2:12)

Spiritual disciplines such as prayer and fasting enable us to get closer to God. Praying and fasting involve communicating with God while undertaking a form of self denial with the aim of suppressing the flesh for the purpose of seeking a deeper spiritual experience with God.

Prayer and fasting is mentioned often in the Bible and is mainly associated with weeping and other acts of humility before God . God's people often prayed and fasted. Prayer and fasting brings an experience of deeper submission and brokenness that renews spiritual vision and reveals God's plan for one's life.

1. What does acceptable fasting involve? (Isaiah 58: 3-7)

2. What are the benefits of praying and fasting according to God's plan? (Isaiah 58:8-12; Esther 4: 16; 5: 2-3 ; Jonah 4:6-10)

3. How do you want to begin or grow in the discipline of prayer and fasting?

Memory Verse

Matthew 17:21 "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Notes

LESSON

3

REPENTANCE FOR RESTORATION (Joel 2:12)

Repentance is not just the act of asking for forgiveness. It also calls upon an individual to review his or her actions, be remorseful, and then commit to acting in a way that demonstrates change for the better.

Restoration is the act of one in a high position to reinstate an offender to a former position, status, or condition. It usually follows the achievement of some set condition or repentance.

In this study, we are learning that all of us have sinned and trespassed against the Lord thus the need to turn to Him in repentance. God is calling us to repent through fasting, weeping, and mourning (Joel 2:12). If we truly repent and return to Him, he will surely restore us to the path that He has set for us.

1. What happened to the children of Israel so that God is calling them to repent? (Jeremiah 7:5-11; Isaiah 1: 4)

2. What does it mean to return to God with all your heart? (Psalms 51:16-17)

3. Share an experience where you returned to God after realizing you had offended Him and you were restored.

Memory Verse

Joel 2:12 "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

Notes

LESSON

4

RESTORATION OF FAMILY ALTAR (Joel 1:3)

The most important requirement for raising godly generations is for you to have a personal relationship with God. You cannot pass on to your children what you do not possess. Joel 1:3 is a charge to speak about God's Judgement as well as His mercies to future generations. This would serve as a reminder, a warning or an encouragement to the future generations. In our context today, we have a generation that has no idea why it is important to defend our faith. To most of us, it is sufficient to believe in God without necessarily sharing this faith with our children and their children. This is an urgent call for each family to restore the broken family altar.

Our text focuses not only on how to raise godly children, but also godly grandchildren. Our goal and prayer, therefore, should be that our godly children will raise godly children who in turn raise godly children and the process continues. It's the principle of 2 Timothy 2:2: which says **"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."** There are four generations in this verse; Paul, Timothy, Faithful Men, and Others. This multi-generational discipleship process should happen in our families.

1. According to Deuteronomy 6:4-7, how can we, as Christian parents, raise up godly generations?

2. Discuss what is more important in child rearing between a *parent's genuine love for God* or *modern parenting techniques and methods*?

3. What practical steps will you take towards restoring your family altar?

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 2:2 "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

Notes

LESSON

5

RESTORATION OF PRODUCTIVITY

(Joel 2:19-23)

In Joel 2, When the children of Israel sinned God released locusts to destroy their land. Their land lay desolate with no produce... However, although God is the one who sent the judgment, He also opens his door of mercy and promises to restore their land's productivity if they turn back to him and truly repent. We too like the children of Israel often become unproductive due to sin. Productivity can be defined as effectively stewarding our gifts, talents, time, energy, and enthusiasm for the good of others and the glory of God. We need to continually evaluate ourselves for areas of unproductivity and seek God's restoration. In this lesson we learn about God's compassionate and abundant restoration of productivity that we too can receive if we call upon His mercy.

1. Pick out all the things that God promises to restore for the children of Israel in Joel 2: 19-23

2. What do we learn about God’s compassion and promises for restoration in the following scriptures; (Ruth 4: 13-22, Job 42:12, John 15:5)

3. In what areas of your life do you need God’s restoration and what shall you do about it?

Memory Verse

Zechariah 9:12, “Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you”.

Notes

LESSON

6

RESTORATION FROM BONDAGE
(Joel 2:20; 2:32)

Bondage can be defined as “the state of being a slave.” It can imply to slavery or slavish thinking.

One can either be in spiritual bondage or physical bondage. Whenever one is in bondage; it is not possible to deliver oneself, and one will definitely need a stronger power in order to be freed.

Do you feel that the devil has a hold on your life in some way? Is there a struggle in your life that seems to repeat itself over and over again? You could be dealing with spiritual bondage it’s time to break free by using the power of God and by being a doer of the Word.

When in bondage, one feels hopeless, helpless, demeaned and helpless. Sometimes one fails even to put the least effort; and becomes hopeless, and ends up surrendering to the existing situation or circumstances.

The beautiful thing is the there is no form of bondage that our Lord cannot deliver us from. We just need to believe in His word, have faith in Him.

The work of deliverance is not new to our Lord, He has done it before, He is doing it and He will do it for all who believe. 2 Cor. 1:9-10; Luke 4:18-19; Exodus 6:5-7; Luke 4:16-19

1. Read Joel 2:20

- i. From the book of Joel, 2:20, who is being addressed?

- ii. What is God saying about their current circumstance?

- iii. How do you relate Exodus 6:5-7 and Luke 4:16-19 Exodus 10:9 with God's promise to deliver His people?

2. Read Joel 2:32

- i. What is the Lord's assurance in this text?

- ii. What are they supposed to do so that the Lord's promise can be fulfilled?

3. What must we do to experience deliverance from the Lord?

4. Share a situation where God intervened in your difficult situation, where you almost had given up fighting it off your live?

Memory Verse

John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Notes

LESSON

7

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
(Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:14-36)

The Holy Spirit is part of the triune God. One in substance with the Father and Jesus. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or power. In this lesson, we shall explore further about the Holy Spirit, and what the Bible says on the Person of the Holy Spirit.

1. What are the names given to the Holy Spirit according to John 14:15-17, Isa 11:2

2. What lessons about the person of the Holy Spirit do you learn from the names above?

3. How is the Holy Spirit described according to Psalms 139: 7-11, John 15:26, 1Peter 4:14.

4. What emblems stand for the Holy Spirit? 1sa 4:4, Exo 29:7, Ezek 34:26-27. Eph 4:30, john 3:6, John 7:37-38

5. What do the above emblems explain about the person of the Holy Spirit?

Memory Verse

Joel 2:28 "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

Notes

LESSON

8

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
(John 14:26; Romans 8:14-16; 26)

As seen in the previous Lesson, the Holy Spirit is one Person of the triune (three-in-one) God, besides God the Father and God the Son. He is not an impersonal power or force, but a fully divine Person. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, but they have different roles. They perform these roles in full cooperation with each other.

The Holy Spirit is clearly at work throughout the world's history. He was at work in creation (Genesis 1:2) and in redemption (John 3:16) in the incarnation of the Son (Luke 1:35), in the inspiration and illumination of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and in transforming believers (Ephesians 1:17-18 & Romans 8:9)

1. What are the attributes of the Holy Spirit according to;

- Hebrews 9:14
- Psalm 139:7-10
- 1 Corinthians 2:10-11
- Luke 1:35-37
- Romans 1:4

2. What roles of the Holy Spirit do we learn from

- John 16:13-15
- Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18; Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:1
- 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 5:16
- Luke 4:14; 24:49; Rom. 15:19
- Rom. 8:26-27; Jude 1:20
- Romans 8:9, Galatians 5:22-23, and Ephesians 1:17-18

3. Share specific ways in which the Holy Spirit has impacted your life as a christian and areas where you need to depend more on Him.

Memory Verse

John 14:26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Notes

LESSON

9

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
(Romans 12:6-8, Corinthians 12:8-10)

We are not given Spiritual gifts so we can feel good about ourselves; neither to look good to others; nor to manipulate or get our own way. The Lord has poured out His spirit that is full of gifts to us believers. As Christians, we've been equipped for the journey of salvation and restoration. In this study we shall look at the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians.

1. What is the purpose of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives? (1st Cor 12:7).

2. List down the gifts of the holy spirit and discuss if they are being exercised in the church today. (Romans 12:6-8, 1st Cor 12:8-10)

3. Do you have gift/gifts of the Holy Spirit and how are you exercising it/them in the church?

Memory Verse

1st Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"

Notes

LESSON

10

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
(Galatians 5:22-23)

In His farewell discourse to His disciples, Jesus promised that He would Send the Holy Spirit to them after His departure. He described Him as the Spirit of truth who would testify about Him. (John 15:26). This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples. The Holy Spirit continues to indwell the believers as a mark of salvation. He works in us/believers by peeling away our sinful characteristics and replacing them with godly characteristics, which Paul refers to as the "Fruit of the Spirit"(Gal 5:22-23).

The focus of this study is to help us to understand the positive godly qualities that God would like to get worked into our personalities.

1. (a) What is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life (Gal 5:22-23)

- (b) What characterises a life that is lived outside the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:19-21)

2 (a) What does one need to do to bear the desired fruits of the Holy Spirit (John 15:1-4, Gal 5:24)

3. How has this lesson challenged you and what do you need to do?

Memory Verse

Matthew 7:16 Jesus told His disciples "By their fruits you shall know them".

LESSON

11

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD
(Joel 1:15; 2:2)

When an event is scheduled to take place, a lot of preparations are made towards the same. Resources such as time and money are allocated and everyone involved stays alert as they watch the progress of the preparations.

The second coming of the Lord is such an event. The Bible is very clear that it is imminent but also gives detail of the events that will precede. Joel 1:15 gives the assurance that the day of the Lord is near and will come like destruction from the Almighty. This demands a response.

1. What details concerning the second coming do you see in the following scriptures?
 - a) Joel 2:2
 - b) Acts 1:11
 - c) 1 Thess 4:16-17

2. What message is Joel passing to us in Joel 1:15?

3. What do you find challenging/encouraging about the certainty of the Lord's return?

4. How does the truth of Christ's second coming motivate your day to day living?

Memory Verse

Revelations 22:12 Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

Notes

LESSON

12

**RESTORATION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION
(Introduction)**

Jesus died to purchase your freedom. After salvation, you become a believer and you belong to Jesus Christ. The central call for all believers is to let others know of Christ's salvation. The last recorded personal instructions by Christ to believers are in Mathew 28: This section of Scripture is referred to as the Great Commission. Jesus gave instructions for all his followers to go to all nations. He also promised that he would be with them always. Just as he was with his disciples He is and will be with us. Christians in all generations must embrace this command. He has given us his Holy Spirit. Thus, we need not strive to fulfil the Great Commission. His presence and authority are with us as we tell others about salvation. We are surrounded by family members, friends, colleagues, neighbours and other associates who need to be told about the love and saving power of Jesus Christ. In this lesson we shall focus on this important subject.

This is the greatest challenge ever given to men by the greatest person that ever lived. Irrespective of who you are, the position you hold. No matter how famous, wealthy, brilliant, or powerful you may be, you will never take up any role that can compare with call of God. We need to urgently wake up and take the message of Jesus love and forgiveness to every person in every community, town, village or even country.

1. What are the Lord's instructions and promise according to John 20: 19-23; Mathew 28:16-20; Acts 1: 8

2. Why is it important to take up this call with great dedication? John 4: 34-35; Mathew 9:37

3. Is there a likelihood that you have neglected Christ's call to In what tell others about the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ? What steps will you take towards restoration of the Great Commission?

Memory Verse

Mathew 28:19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Notes