

## The Day of the Locusts, the Day of the Lord - Joel 1:1-3:21

**Topics:** Blessing, Darkness, Fasting, Forgiveness, Future, God, Holiness, Holy Spirit, Jealousy, Judgment, Mourning, Nature, People, Prayer, Restoration, Sin, Suffering, War

### Open It

- \* 1. If you lived in an area known for natural disasters—earthquakes, brush fires, flooding, or the like—how would this knowledge affect you?
- 2. When have you most enjoyed the world of nature?

### Explore It

- 3. Who was Joel? (1:1)
- 4. What was the prophet's opening appeal? (1:2-4)
- 5. What was the nature of Joel's call to mourn? (1:5-13)
- 6. What specific instructions were to be given to all the people? (1:14)
- \* 7. Why was the locust plague meaningful? (1:15-20)
- \* 8. What was significant about the coming Day of the Lord? (2:1-11)
- \* 9. What was the nation's only hope against utter destruction? (2:12-14)
- 10. Why were the people told to congregate? (2:15-17)
- 11. In response to real repentance, what did God promise to do immediately? (2:18-27)
- 12. What future deliverance would God provide? (2:28-32)
- 13. How would God judge the nations? (3:1-16)
- 14. How would Israel respond to God's incredible display of power? (3:17)
- 15. What would mark Israel's ultimate restoration? (3:18-21)

### Get It

- 16. When natural disasters strike people and places throughout the world, what bothers you most?
- 17. If a family in your community lost all their belongings to a house fire, what would you do?
- 18. If you were unexpectedly faced with economic hardship, to whom would you turn for help?
- 19. How does your church band together to fight spiritual battles?
- \* 20. If Joel were to preach an ominous sermon about the impending Day of the Lord, how would your congregation likely respond to his words?
- \* 21. In terms of Joel's imagery, how would you describe the spiritual condition of your church: about due for an invasion of locusts? prepared to fast, mourn, and wear sackcloth? ready for a ripe harvest and an outpouring of the Lord's Spirit?
- 22. When is it appropriate to fast and mourn?
- 23. What is true repentance?
- 24. How have God's blessings healed wounds in your life?

### Apply It

- 25. How can you provide emergency assistance to a family or group facing unexpected personal loss and hardship?
- \* 26. When can you take time to fast and pray for your church?
- 27. What is one creative way you can acknowledge your dependence on the Lord this week?