JOURNEY THROUGH

GET INTO THE WORD

GROUPS
DISCUSSION
GUIDE

THE BIBLE TOGETHER

Week of Sunday,
October 18, 2026

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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Growing in the MARCS of a disciple every day!

OCTOBER FOCUS - REPRODUCIBLE

Select a question below to ask the group to gauge how you are growing in the MARCS of a disciple.

1. Who are you intentionally investing in spiritually right now?
2. Are you multiplying what you're receiving, or mostly consuming it?
3. How am I leaving a legacy that matters?

INTRODUCTION

Joel 2:12–17 calls God's people to respond to devastation with repentance, fasting, weeping, and prayer. Even after judgment and loss, God says, "Even now," inviting His people to return to Him with their whole hearts. We must examine where we may be relying on outward religion instead of inward surrender, and where God is calling us to pray with urgency and, consider what it would look like to stop playing and start praying.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Joel

READ ALOUD

Joel 2:12-17

DISCUSS

Opening Question

Think of a time when circumstances forced you to stop and pay attention to something you had been ignoring. What happened, and what did it take to get your attention?

- What is the difference between outward religious actions and true repentance before God?
- How can hardship expose our need for God and call us back to Him?
- Why is repentance and prayer meant to involve the whole community of God's people?

Have someone read aloud **Jeremiah 29:11-14**.

- How does understanding the context of Israel in exile when they receive this promise impact your understanding of it?
- How does the full passage help us understand God's promise of hope, prayer, seeking, and restoration?

DISCUSS & APPLY

- What is one area of your life where you are tempted to give God outward obedience but not your whole heart?
- When you face hardship, do you tend to run toward God, get angry at God, ignore God, or try to fix things yourself? How can you begin responding to difficulty as an invitation to return to Him?
- If revival in your home, workplace, school, church, or community was connected to your prayers, what would need to change?

Wait/Hear Challenge Question

What has been the most impactful part of the Wait/Hear challenge so far?

You and your group can join the challenge at waithearchallenge.com

Praying as a Church - Even Greater Prayer Week 3

(Share and pick some to pray through as a group.)

Advancing the Hope

Day One - That God would show you how He's calling you to be personally involved in the future of Long Hollow, and give you the faith and courage to step into something bigger than yourself.

Day Two - That God would use Long Hollow to advance His Kingdom through local and global missions, expanding our impact in ways only He can.

Day Three - For the launch of our new Marketplace Ministry, that God would weave the Gospel into everyday life and make a lasting impact in workplaces across our community.

Day Four - For the continued reach of discipleship at Long Hollow, as we make disciples here at home and around the globe.

Day Five - That the Multiply Conference would truly live up to its name by multiplying the impact of discipleship as people apply what they learn to their lives and ministries.

Day Six - For your Circle of Impact, that God's Word would bring real change in your life that shapes everything you do where you live, work, and play.

Day Seven - That families would faithfully complete the Family Discipleship Track, recognizing that one person pursuing God has a real impact, but a family pursuing Him together has even more.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

Joel 2:12-17

God says, "Come back to me with all your heart." What do you think it means to come back to God?
For younger children, help them think about saying sorry, praying, and choosing God's way. For older children and teens, talk about repentance, not just acting better, but turning their hearts toward God.

Joel says to "tear your hearts, not just your clothes." Why do you think God cares more about what is happening inside us than what people see on the outside?
For younger children, explain that God wants us to really love Him, not just pretend. For older children and teens, discuss how people can look religious on the outside while still needing to be honest with God on the inside.

Why do you think prayer is something the whole family and church should do together?
For younger children, remind them that God hears their prayers too. For older children and teens, talk about how revival and change begin when God's people seek Him together.

GET INTO THE WORD

A YEAR-LONG JOURNEY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Week 38

- Isaiah 45 / Proverbs 29
- Isaiah 52 / Proverbs 30
- Isaiah 53 / Proverbs 31
- Isaiah 65 / Job 1
- Isaiah 66 / Job 2

MEMORIZE: Acts 2:42, Acts 4:31

Even Greater
evengreatervision.com

For more information about Even Greater, visit our our webpage above or scan the QR code.

Wait / Hear - Resources
Robby Gallaty

Visit waithearchallenge.com or scan the QR for more resource and the 7-week challenge.

WATCH

The Bible Project's Guide - Joel

See a collection of videos, classes, and articles that dives into **Joel** and their themes.

The Bible Project's Guide - Isaiah

See a collection of videos, classes, and articles that dives into **Isaiah** and its themes.

What's Going On at Long Hollow

- **Long Hollow Pickleball League**- October 15-November 19, 6PM, Pickleball Kingdom
- **Owning Your Faith** - Sundays in October, 11AM, Atrium next to the Information Area.
- **Parent Discipleship Workshop** - Wednesday, October 14-November 4, 6:30 PM, North Side Lobby
- **Missions Sunday** - Sunday, October 25

Starting a D-Group

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.
longhollow.com/dgroups

COMMENTARY

What's Going On?

Joel 2:12-17 presents God's urgent appeal for the people to undergo genuine spiritual transformation—turning back to God with complete sincerity rather than mere external gestures like tearing clothes. The passage emerges as a pivotal moment within Judah's crisis, where despite the devastation from locusts and drought alongside impending judgment, God introduces a counterpoint to the catastrophe.

The appeal rests on God's character: graciousness, compassion, patience with human sin, and faithful covenant love. (Joel 2:12–17) By calling for the people to "tear your hearts," Joel emphasizes that transformation must originate from the will and intellect—the seat of decision-making—rather than from performative ritual. The text acknowledges uncertainty about God's response, framed as "Who knows?"—God remains free to decide whether restoration will follow, though if divine favor returns, the people will resume their temple offerings. (Joel 2:12–17)

The passage unfolds in two movements: verses 12-14 establish the theological foundation for repentance by highlighting God's merciful nature, while verses 15-17 prescribe concrete communal actions. The community is summoned to blow the trumpet, declare a sacred fast, gather all people from infants to elders—even interrupting wedding celebrations—with priests weeping at the temple. (Joel 2:12–17) Their intercession appeals to God's compassion while expressing concern that the nations might mock Israel's God if the people remain abandoned. (Joel 2:12–17)

Open in LOGOS Study Assistant

A Bit of Background Context

Joel 2:12–17 follows the prophet's vivid description of a locust plague that devastates the agricultural landscape, destroying all the land's produce. The prophet connects this plague to the Day of the Lord, establishing it as an act of God's judgment.

The passage itself represents a pivotal shift in Joel's message. Despite the threatening judgment announced earlier, this section expresses the conviction that repentance can alter God's response, beginning with a divine call for fasting, weeping, and mourning. This is the only true instruction for repentance in the entire book, making it theologically central to Joel's purpose.

What makes Joel's approach distinctive is that the book contains no indictment section listing specific offenses—the sins remain implicit. Instead, Joel focuses on motivation through messages of judgment and hope. The prophet insists that repentance alone offers hope for God's people, assuring Judah that turning back will bring both physical and spiritual restoration.

The passage calls for comprehensive communal response: the trumpet sounds in Zion, announcing a sacred fast and solemn assembly that gathers all people—from the elderly to nursing infants (Joel 2:12–17). Even those in intimate circumstances—newlyweds and priests—must interrupt their normal lives to participate (Joel 2:12–17). The appeal rests on God's established character as gracious, merciful, and slow to anger, with the priests appealing even to divine pride to secure salvation for all. This passage thus encapsulates Joel's theological vision: catastrophic judgment paired with the possibility of divine mercy through genuine repentance.

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Joel 2:12-17

Even now — this is the LORD's declaration — turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear your hearts, not just your clothes, and return to the LORD your God. For he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and he relents from sending disaster. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, so you can offer a grain offering and a drink offering to the LORD your God. Blow the ram's horn in Zion! Announce a sacred fast; proclaim a solemn assembly. Gather the people; sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; , gather the infants, even babies nursing at the breast. Let the groom leave his bedroom, and the bride her honeymoon chamber. Let the priests, the LORD's ministers, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, "Have pity on your people, LORD, and do not make your inheritance a disgrace, an object of scorn among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God? ' "

Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

MISSIONAL

Engaging with the world to share the Gospel intentionally.

ACCOUNTABLE

Being transparent with Christ and other believers about your walk.

REPRODUCIBLE

Disciples who make disciples; the mentee becomes the mentor.

COMMUNAL

Living in deep community with other believers; never alone.

SCRIPTURAL

Grounded in the Word of God as the ultimate authority.



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CHURCH