

## Growth Group Homework

Reading the week of May 03-07, 2021

*Discussing the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>*

---

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Have you ever fasted from food? If so, when was it? If not, what would be your incentive?
  
2. Have you ever seen nature “rejoice”? If so, what thing in the nature brings you the most joy?

### GOING DEEPER/ Dixon First Reads Together

**Joel: *Characteristics*:** The literary genius of Joel shines through in the book’s structure, which flows smoothly from start to finish. Each section relates to what precedes it and what follows it. Hence, it helps to read the whole book in one sitting before studying its parts. The focus of the book is twofold: (1) The ever-present, practical problem of what to do about the locust plague (1:1-2:27); and (2) The future Day of the Lord, of which the current plague is a sig (2:28-3:21). In combining the two—event plus interpretation –Joel is performing the classic function of an Old Testament prophet, that of conveying God’s revelation. Likewise, the borrowing of phrases from other prophets to speak a “new word” from the Lord in a new setting shows that Joel was probably an educated person, and had heard, if not read, the prophecies of Micah, Jeremiah and Isaiah. In 2:28-3:21, Joel expands the apocalyptic dimensions of these prophets. In Acts 2, the apostle Peter expounds the meaning of Joel’s prophecy.<sup>1</sup>

**Monday: *Joel 2 Heart-Rending Call and Promised Spirit***

Have you ever sensed God’s call to do battle? If so, with what or whom?

Do you think repentance of heart can be true without “fasting and mourning”? If so, how? If not, what do you think a spiritual fast we need for a repentance of heart would include today?

When do you believe God would take pity on you or your church?

Have you ever felt a sense of shame? If so, when and why? If not, what do you think would make you feel a sense of shame?

---

<sup>1</sup> Serendipity Bible, For Personal and Small Group Study

**Tuesday: *Joel 3, Blessed Zion***

What is your image of God? Does it allow or demand a judgment on sinful nations or persons? If the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem made it holy (v.17), then what does the Lord's presence in your life mean?

**Amos: Historical Background:** By 800 B.C. both the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah) had reached new political and military heights. Peace reigned and business was booming. Even religion was on the rise. However, the exterior calm belied Israel's inner disease. Idolatry, extravagant indulgence, and a corrupt judicial system ran beneath the surface. In this context, Amos calls for social justice as the foundation for true piety (5:24).<sup>2</sup>

**Wednesday: *Amos 1: Judgment on Israel's Neighbors***

Have you ever felt unqualified to do something for God, but did it anyway? If so, how did you get past the fear? If not, what would be a challenge for you that you cannot handle alone?

Have you ever been criticized? If so, how do you feel, defensive, embarrassed, or accepting?

**Thursday: *Amos 2 : Judgment on Israel***

If you were given the task of judging Israel's sins listed here, which would you judge more harshly? Why?

What do you think will happen without repentance when Israel's sins are addressed? What about your case?

**Friday: *Amos 3 : Witness Against Israel***

If your behavior is going to cause you or others problems, how would you prefer to be warned, face to face, by letter, by phone, or in a support group?

How might you become more free from your possessions, so that you might become more free with your possessions?

Prayer Requests:

⇒

⇒

---

<sup>2</sup> Serendipity Bible, For Personal and Small Group Study



---

### **Growth Group Community Service Project**

We ask every group to take on at least one service project a year (the ideal is two) and to have at least one social gathering (potluck) per half a year. Please consider with your group members of what community service you'd like to participate in. There is a project list made by our church that you can join in and outside the church.

---