

**Pray for your time together!**

**Read passage out loud as a group.** Option: Give group 5 minutes to look at the passage by themselves.

**This Week's Passage**

**Scripture Reference:**

- 1** “In those days and at that time,  
when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,  
**2** I will gather all nations  
and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.  
There I will put them on trial  
for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel,  
because they scattered my people among the nations  
and divided up my land.  
**3** They cast lots for my people  
and traded boys for prostitutes;  
they sold girls for wine to drink.  
**4** “Now what have you against me, Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Are  
you repaying me for something I have done? If you are paying me back, I will swiftly and  
speedily return on your own heads what you have done. **5** For you took my silver and my  
gold and carried off my finest treasures to your temples. **6** You sold the people of Judah  
and Jerusalem to the Greeks, that you might send them far from their homeland.  
**7** “See, I am going to rouse them out of the places to which you sold them, and I will  
return on your own heads what you have done. **8** I will sell your sons and daughters to the  
people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, a nation far away.” The LORD  
has spoken.  
**9** Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war!  
Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack.  
**10** Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears.  
Let the weakling say, “I am strong!”  
**11** Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there.  
Bring down your warriors, LORD!  
**12** “Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat,  
for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.  
**13** Swing the sickle,  
for the harvest is ripe.  
Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow—  
so great is their wickedness!”  
**14** Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!  
For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.  
**15** The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.

**16** The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble.

But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

### **Blessings for God's People**

**17** “Then you will know that I, the LORD your God,  
dwell in Zion, my holy hill.

Jerusalem will be holy;

never again will foreigners invade her.

**18** “In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water.

A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house and will water the valley of acacias.

**19** But Egypt will be desolate, Edom a desert waste,  
because of violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood.

**20** Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations.

**21** Shall I leave their innocent blood unavenged? No, I will not.”

The LORD dwells in Zion!

### **Discussion**

**Ask the Group:** What about this passage stood out to you?

*Leaders' Note: This question gives your group the opportunity to explore their own ideas before leading them down specific discussion.*

**Ask the Group:** The first part of this passage talks about how God gathers his people and holds the rest of the world accountable for what they did against his people. What harm was done to God's people? v. 2-6 *His people were scattered, robbed of treasure, and sent away from their homeland.*

**Ask the Group:** What does God promise to do to those who acted against his people? v. 7-8 *He promises to return on their heads what they did and sell their sons and daughters*

**Ask the Group:** Looking at these verses above, how does God feel about his people? *Wants to protect and avenge them, wants to be acknowledged as LORD, etc*

**Ask the Group:** What is Joel's response to how God feels about his people? v. 9-11 *Joining God in his fight and asking God to “bring it” Why does God do all of this for his people? So they can return to him and bring glory to himself, because he loves us, etc.*

**Ask the Group:** What does God say he wants for himself? v. 17 *Acknowledgment by his people that he is the LORD their God and he wants his people to be holy, reflecting himself*

- What does God say he wants for his people? v. 17-20 *He wants to bring them back to himself, Jerusalem will be holy and safe, new blessings, eternal inhabitation, Lord dwelling with them, etc.*

## **Application**

**Ask the Group (small or large):** What does God want for you? How have you seen God pursuing you? What is your response to God pursuing you?

**Ask the Group (small or large):** What part of our study of Joel has stood out to you? What will you take away and apply to your life?

**Ask the Group (small or large):** What goal for spiritual growth have you set for this season?

*Suggestion: Send these application questions and challenge out through email or text during the week to encourage your group.*