



At-A-Glance: Ages 6-7
Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi
Unit 7, Lesson 35

The Prophet Joel

Lesson Aim: To know God judges our hearts and wants our hearts to turn to Him.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is your favorite bug?

GAME: Locust Wars

THE WORSHIP THE GOD OF POWER

Read Worship Scripture: 2 Peter 3:9.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook.

THE WORD JOEL'S CHOICE: "REND YOUR HEARTS"

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God sent invisible horses and chariots of fire to protect His people.

Today, we will hear about the prophet Joel. Point to Joel (Circa 830 B.C.). **His main message from God was for the people of Judah to return to Him with all their hearts.** Point to Judah. **Elijah and Elisha pointed others to God through His miracles. The later prophets, like Joel, pointed others to God by bringing messages from Him. As His messengers, God gave each of the later prophets at least one warning, choice, and promise to give to the people.** Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Joel 2:1, 13, 25, 28, 32. Pray. Read.

A swarm of locusts took over and destroyed the land and crops in Judah. Joel used locusts as a picture of what the Day of the Lord would be like—the day the Lord will come in power to judge the earth. Read Joel 2:1. **To rend means to tear or pull on your clothes out of sorrow or frustration. Listen to the choice Joel explained to the people.** Read Joel 2:13. **Let's hear some of God's promises to those who turn their hearts back to Him.** Read Joel 2:25, 28, 32.

THE WAY TURNING OUR HEARTS TOWARD GOD

When God gave the prophets a message for His people, it usually came as a warning, a choice, or a promise. God's WARNING was that just as the army of locusts had come to take over their land, the Lord and His mighty army would come one day to judge the nations. On that day, all will be judged for their sins.

In Bible times, when God's people were sorry for their sins, they made an outward sign to God by wearing ripped, torn sackcloth and rubbing ashes on their faces. Some people just pretended to be sorry. They were not sorry in their hearts. They kept sinning. So, Joel showed the people they had a choice to make. The CHOICE was whether to rend their hearts, which means to be truly sorry for their sins, and return to doing things God's way.

Here is a piece of torn sackcloth. Give Treasure Treats. **See how hard it is to rend it. Feel how rough it is against your skin. Just as God's people wore sackcloth to show God they were sorry, wear this as a wristband as one way you can show God you are sorry for your sins.**

We all sin by getting into habits or ways of thinking that are wrong in God's eyes. Let's take seven seconds of silence to ask God to remind you now of one habit of sin in your life. Ask God to help you return to Him and to do things His way starting today! Pray.

Joel gave four PROMISES from God for those who turned to Him. What did God promise?

1. To restore what the locusts and the armies had taken.
2. To pour out His Spirit on His people.
3. To save everyone who called on the name of the Lord.
4. To judge the nations for their sins.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

800 years after Joel told the people about God's promise to pour out His Spirit, the promise came true. Just before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. Let's read how God kept His promise. Reveal Acts 2:4. Read.

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Sackcloth wristband
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: Locust swarm ruining the plants and the land and Joel wearing sackcloth and saying, "The Day of the Lord is coming!"
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Locust Food

GAME: Sackcloth Relay

CRAFT: Prophets' Traffic Light

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Picture God's Power, Unscramble the Verse

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW