



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9  
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. God gave them at least one warning, choice, and promise.** Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Pray. Read. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Joel 2:1, 13, 25, 28, 32. Find and Highlight Key Verse First: Joel 2:13. Pray.

**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.** Point to the poster. **What was God's WARNING for the people of Judah?** (Just as the army of locusts came to take over their land, the Lord and His army would come one day to judge the nations 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. But, some just pretended to be sorry. Let's review the CHOICE God gave the people.** Read Joel 2:13. **Is God more interested in our hearts or our clothes? Why? To rend is to rip or tear. What do you think it means to rend your heart?** (To be truly sorry for your sins.) **The second part of the choice is to return to God. What does that mean?** (To return to doing things His 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 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.**

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.

**Which is your favorite of these four promises?**

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

**800 years later, God's 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. Find It First. Highlight. 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 and the prophet Joel
- 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**