



“Jesus’ Gospel message of the Kingdom of Heaven at hand, is expanded and extended to everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord through His death and resurrection. This is not a new idea. The prophet Joel referenced a day when God’s dwelling would be within His people and He would transform this world as we know it. This week we will be looking at Peter’s handling of the words of Joel and how these words had import in Joel’s day, in Peter’s day and in our day today.”

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

What is your favorite Minor Prophet and why?

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:21

“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 2:16-21

“16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

*17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;*

*18 even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.*

*19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;*

*20 the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.*

21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Joel 2:28-32

*“And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.*

*29 Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.*

30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read carefully what it says in the book of Joel and how Peter is using it in his sermon at Pentecost. What surprises you about how Peter uses OT passages?
2. What is the central teaching that Peter is trying to get across to those gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost?
3. Why does Peter choose to use the prophet Joel?
4. How does Joel/Peter describe the early church being “birthed” here?
5. The inclusivity of the church is spoken, first, to those in Jerusalem who were already God’s chosen people? Why do you think Peter made sure to start here?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Considering the attributes of the early church according to Joel/Peter, does the modern church still exhibit these attributes? Do you, yourself?
2. When Joel talks about the future, the apocalypse, how does it make you feel? What is Joel/Peter trying to encourage us to receive as we look forward into Christ’s second coming?
3. Starting with the end in mind, how should the church be living in and amongst the world around us? How can you start living like this today?

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.