

Joel: Preppers
Core Group Discussion Guide
June 22, 2018

Message Overview:

Have you ever found yourself so caught up in the present that you forgot where you were headed in life? Sometimes we see this in our finances, present needs cause us to forget our larger life goals. Losing our vision for the future can also happen to us spiritually. This lost picture of God and the future God had for his people is what the prophet Joel was passionate about. Joel wrote to a nation that had been touched by the discipline of God with a plague of locusts that destroyed the land. Part of the reason that God was needing to discipline his people was because they had stopped looking forward to the new reality God was ushering in. In fact, their thoughts and lives had drifted into a kind of complacency toward God. The prophet Joel is convinced that part of being effective in the present is a clear picture of and hope for the future. This is a tremendous challenge to followers of Jesus, reminding us that taking our eyes off of our future hope leads to failure and lostness in the present. An effective life involves prepping for our future, which is what we will be talking about.

Text:

- Joel 2:28-32

Questions for Discussion:

1. What stood out to you from this morning's message?
2. As a group, make a list of the 5 top responsibilities in your lives that require most of your attention in life.
3. As a group, make a list of the 5 top promises of God about His future for us. (don't get too complicated)
4. Compare the list of responsibilities to the list of God's promises about the future. If a person is convinced of the realities of God's promises, how might that change the way we approach our responsibilities?
5. Were you surprised by the fact that God disciplined his people to get their attention?
 - a. Read Hebrews 6:4-11
 - b. Have you ever experienced this?
 - c. Going forward, how did it change the way you lived?
 - d. Did it make you more sensitive to God's desires moving forward?
6. Can someone explain how living with a more conscious awareness of God changes the way we think about the future?
7. How do we live with a "preparing" mentality toward the future God has for His people?