

## Joel 2:17-32 Discussion Questions

1. This passage makes a turning point in the flow of the book of Joel. The discussion switches from focusing on judgment and repentance to restoration.
  - a. Reflect on the kind of affliction that the people of Israel have endured in the book of Joel. How does the Lord's restoration correspond to these afflictions?
  - b. In what ways does the predicted restoration go beyond the affliction?
  - c. In the past, where have you seen destitution and affliction in your own life, and how have you seen God's restorative work heal and even go beyond what you needed or asked for?
  - d. Where in your life (or even in the life of our church or culture) do you see a great need for restoration?
  - e. What would restoration look like in this area?
  
2. As we see in this passage—and throughout the Scriptures—salvation and restoration is bigger than God solving our personal problems by reconciling us to Himself. Among other things, it is also Him restoring us so that we can be part of His work to restore all creation.
  - a. How have you seen God use you to be part of His work to restore all creation to Himself?
  - b. In what ways has God uniquely gifted you to be His ambassador to a specific area of society or demographic? How is He using you there?
  
3. A big part of this restorative process within creation is the restoration of relationships. With the restoration of KHC's former pastor this weekend, this kind of reconciliation is fresh for us as a church.
  - a. The restoration process begins with forgiveness. Over the years what has the Lord taught you about the importance of and what it means to walk in forgiveness?

- 1) Are there any relationships that you currently have that are being strangled due to unforgiveness either towards you or you might have towards others?
  - 2) What can/should you do to work to make a breakthrough here?
  - 3) Is forgiveness a one-time thing or an ongoing practice?
  - 4) How do you know if you have truly forgiven someone?
- b. The next step is reconciliation. This is where two parties work to rebuild a relationship with an appropriate amount of trust.
- 1) How have you seen or experienced this? What did it look like? How long did it take?
  - 2) In what relationship are you currently experiencing this or want to experience this?
- c. Restoration is the last piece where we reach a place of significant trust so that the relationship is rebuilt. This doesn't mean that things necessarily go back to the way they used to be. When significant trust has been broken due to abuse or unfaithfulness, sometimes restoration involves a new kind of relationship that is marked by love and acceptance, but with healthy boundaries in place.
- 1) Where have you seen or experienced the restoration of a relationship in your life?
  - 2) How did the relationship change after you were restored?
4. What has Chris' resignation and restoration taught you about God, yourself, sin, forgiveness, the church, etc.?