

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

God Will Help

Last week we learned that God sent the prophet, Hosea, to tell the people of Israel they had done wrong. Israel did not want to turn away from their sin. God told Israel if they will repent, He would forgive them. God loves us deeply and is full of mercy.

Joel 2

Read the Bible

READ: Joel 2:1-13 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse

Everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord
will be saved.
(Romans 10:13 NIRV)

Begin With Prayer

Because the people had sinned, God sent the prophet, Joel, to warn the people of Judah that “the day of the Lord was coming.” God said that it would be “dark and sad.” God said that a “huge army of locusts would spread across the mountains.” (A locust is an insect like a grasshopper that eats leaves etc.) In addition, it would be an army like none other. God said that there would never be another like it. (Joel 2:1-2 NIRV)

It was an awful thing for the land. Large numbers of locusts came and destroyed all the crops and land. (Joel 2:3 NIRV)

Goals

1. Understand that God sent Joel to tell the people to return to Him.
2. Recognize that God is full of love.
3. Learn that God said if the people would repent, He would take pity.
4. Understand that God promised to send His Spirit.

Joel told the people what God said. He gathered the people together to talk to God about the hard struggles they were having. Because God loved the people, He wanted them to repent of their sins. Joel said, “The Lord announces to his people, ‘Return to me with all your heart. There is still time.’” (Joel 2:12 NIRV)

God wanted the people to return to Him. God wanted the people to understand that, “He is gracious. He is tender and kind. He is slow to get angry. He is full of love.” (Joel 2:13 NIRV)

God cared about the people. God said that if the people would repent He would take pity. He said that He would send them “grain, olive oil, and fresh wine.” God promised that He would give them the right amount of rain in the spring and fall. “It will be enough to satisfy you completely.” (Joel 2:19-26 NIRV)

God Will Help — Bible Facts

1. Joel was a prophet of God.
2. Joel told the people God would punish them.
3. Joel told the people that God is gracious, tender, kind; slow to get angry, and full of love.
4. God promised that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Then God made another promise. He said, “After that, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will have dreams. Your young men will have visions... those who serve me, men and women alike.” (Joel 2:19-26 NIV) The sons and daughters would teach to benefit the church. Some would be inspired by dreams and visions. Race, education, and class would no longer matter. Everyone would have an opportunity to know God. This promise began to be fulfilled at Pentecost. (Acts 2:17-21)

Later in verse 32 of chapter 2, Joel says that “whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” He tells the people that God will help them through the hard times.

We know that God loves us and can help us (deliver us), too. Romans 10:13 repeats what Joel said, “If we call on God, He will save us and help us.”

Review

1. **Who was Joel?** (Joel was a prophet of God.)
2. **What did Joel do?** (Joel told the people God would punish them.)
3. **What did God want the people to do?** (God wanted the people to return to Him.)
4. **What did God promise?** (God promised to show pity if they would repent.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Joel said that whoever calls on the Lord will be saved. If you want to be saved, you must believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins. You must believe that Jesus rose from the dead on third day. Because Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead, we have a way to heaven. (John 14:6; John 3:16) We must call on Him and ask Him to be a part of our lives so that we can go to heaven. If you want to know how to trust Jesus, talk to your teacher.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for us.
3. Ask God to help you follow His direction.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to follow God's direction.

Application

Because of their sin, God had sent locusts to destroy the land. God sent Joel to tell the people to return to Him. Joel said that God is full of love. God cared about the people. He said if the people would repent, He would take pity. God promised to send His Spirit. He promised that anyone who called on the name of the Lord would be saved. (Romans 10:13)

Planning for Next Week

God Will Forgive — Amos 9

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Joel 2:1-13 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

•**Teachers:** Bring lifesavers (try dollar stores). Bring a blue tarp or a blue plastic table cloth to represent water. Let some children stand in the water. Choose some to try and help those in the water by throwing them a life saver. In order to save someone, the lifesaver must go over their head or arms. Talk about God's salvation.

A very long time ago in the Bible, there lived a man named Joel. He loved God very much. He was a messenger for God. He would tell the people what God said.

Sadly, the people stopped listening to God. They did not care about God and wanted to do things their way. This made God very sad because He loved them.

The people planted fruits and vegetables for their families. They worked the soil to make sure they had many different foods to eat.

One day an awful thing happened. Locusts came and ate all the crops that the people had planted in the fields. There was nothing to eat!!

The people were very sad and scared. They did not know what to do. Joel talked to the people and helped them know that God still loved them.

God cared about the people. God said that if the people would repent (stop doing wrong and say they were sorry), He would take pity. He said that he would send them "grain, olive oil, and fresh wine." God promised that He would give them the right amount of rain in the spring and fall.

Then God promised everyone would have an opportunity to know Him.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to save us.
3. Ask God to help you understand that He is full of love.

Memory verse for younger children

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

Learning Activities

- Memory verse activity** — Bring coloring pages of the cross. Write the Bible verse on the page.

- Test your memory** — Bring pictures of locusts. Bring pictures of grain, olive oil, and wine. Bring a picture of a cross. Use the pictures to tell the story.

- Taste activity** — Bring gummy candy that has insect shapes.

Bring lifesaver candy.

- Think about it** — Joel lived in a time when things were very difficult. Talk about what it must have been like to be Joel, a messenger for God, during that time.

God promised that He would have pity and send rain if the people would repent and turn back to God. Talk about God's mercy and grace.

- Touch activity** — Bring lifesavers (try dollar stores). Bring a blue tarp or a blue plastic table cloth to represent water. Let some children stand in the water. Choose some to try and help those in the water by throwing them a life saver. In order to save someone, the lifesaver must go over their head or arms. Talk about God's salvation.

- Run and play** — There were many locusts that came to destroy the land. Allow all the children to run arm in arm if possible, if not divide them into groups. Tell them they must coordinate their steps.

- Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to seek Him.

- Sing** — Sing "Seek Ye First," "I Come to the Garden Alone," or another song related to the story.

- Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handout with the Bible verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Everyone
who calls
on the name
of the Lord
will be saved.
Romans 10:13

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God

is full

of love

Word Search

R G B T R C C K E J P N D Y F
F Y N T S L R V F F G K O F R
R T B K A I O O S R R R M E B
L G S N R L N I P A T E P B G
M F D U E I T S R S B E E R N
N R K P C M S P E T N R A L B
D R E S D O R D F T E C S R Y
D N U N L L L H A R I N L C S
N E I T O E E N U O A D D U M
E K T V E G O T U T L I I E P
D I E A G R J S U R M R N S R
S T E L Y T I P E K A T R D K
H W N M T N F G S D E E R H T

JOEL
CROPS
GRACIOUS
LOVE

LOCUST
LAND
TENDER
RAIN

DESTROY
RETURN
KIND
TAKE PITY

Word Search

R	G	B	T	R	C	C	K	E	J	P	N	D	Y	F
F	Y	N	T	S	L	R	V	F	F	G	K	O	F	R
R	T	B	K	A	I	O	O	S	R	R	R	M	E	B
L	G	S	N	R	L	N	I	P	A	T	E	P	B	G
M	F	D	U	E	I	T	S	R	S	B	E	E	R	N
N	R	K	P	C	M	S	P	E	T	N	R	A	L	B
D	R	E	S	D	O	R	D	F	T	E	C	S	R	Y
D	N	U	N	L	L	L	H	A	R	I	N	L	C	S
N	E	I	T	O	E	E	N	U	O	A	D	D	U	M
E	K	T	V	E	G	O	T	U	T	L	I	I	E	P
D	I	E	A	G	R	J	S	U	R	M	R	N	S	R
S	T	E	L	Y	T	I	P	E	K	A	T	R	D	K
H	W	N	M	T	N	F	G	S	D	E	E	R	H	T

JOEL
CROPS
GRACIOUS
LOVE

LOCUST
LAND
TENDER
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DESTROY
RETURN
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Word Search

F N B T E L L R G B T F R
R A I N D L B S F G C R C
C S K S R M F M P S K F B
L O V E N G K P B C W T S
B R M G T D C N B R S D P
G R A C I O U S F M S D H
P S M W S M P F C W S A F
K I N D N Y B K M K D N R
D P G H F P K B T D F S R
T E N D E R N G F S F B D
D F B T F P N B K H P G S
J O E L N B F L G R N M S

JOEL

TENDER

KIND

GRACIOUS

LOVE

RAIN

Word Search

F N B T E L L R G B T F R
R A I N D L B S F G C R C
C S K S R M F M P S K F B
L O V E N G K P B C W T S
B R M G T D C N B R S D P
G R A C I O U S F M S D H
P S M W S M P F C W S A F
K I N D N Y B K M K D N R
D P G H F P K B T D F S R
T E N D E R N G F S F B D
D F B T F P N B K H P G S
J O E L N B F L G R N M S

JOEL

TENDER

KIND

GRACIOUS

LOVE

RAIN

Anagram

REEENOVY

OHW

SLLAC

MAEN

RODL

DAEVS

NSOARM

ELOJ

PELH

Anagram

EVERYONE

WHO

CALLS

NAME

LORD

SAVED

ROMANS

JOEL

HELP