

## Marinating in God's Word: Joel 2:23-27, Acts 2:14-18

Ask about a favorite book of the Bible, and you're not likely to someone cite the Minor Prophets. And yet we hear God's word through them too. Thus we are focusing this summer on a portion of the Bible we tend not to know very well.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Joel's prophecy is timeless in two ways – first, we can't date it for sure, but, secondly, it applies to every time! A plague of locusts had devastated the land, but the Lord was ready to restore. For them the locust plague was not just a matter of blight on their hedges and flowers. It was life and death – plagues brought food shortages. When was a time that devastation hit you and/or your family hard? What happened?
- If you read up the page in Joel, you will see that the locust plague was not random, but was sent by God as judgement for sin. (See also 2:25.) From Joel and other portions of scripture, what do you believe is God's purpose in bringing judgement? Is it to punish, to restore, or something else? Have you borne the consequences of sin or poor choices in your life? What happened?
- The Lord made clear through Joel that he not only holds accountable, he heals and restores. Thus the wonderful image of 2:21-27. His restoration is always more abundant than the devastation. Have you seen this in your life? How so?
- Following our Joel verses, Joel prophesies something far beyond restoration from the locusts. Read 2:28-29. Then read how Peter picked up this prophecy to explain what God was doing on Pentecost in Acts 2:14-18. How do you sense the Lord would add a bonus in this next season to the restoration he is doing in your life? In St. Giles' life?

Next week we will focus on Micah.