

Lesson 13

## Joel — a Prophet to Judah



**Theme:** Inspired Scripture — Respecting God’s Word

### Sunday Morning Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Measure What You Know!

**Memory Verse:** Have the entire class stand and say all three Memory Verses for this quarter together. Take a moment to talk about the meaning of each verse and especially what they tell us about God.

#### Prayer

#### Teaching Today’s Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-23; Acts 2:37-38. Have reading students find and mark Joel 2:28 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today’s events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by showing a map of the Divided Kingdom. Point out that Joel prophesied to Judah.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics and other props using the “God’s Rule Scale” as described on page 10 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Measuring by God’s Rule Lesson Graphics* and other props such as plastic locust and grasshoppers.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students’ ages:
  - Review that God sent plagues on Egypt, specifically the plague of locusts. (Review.)
  - God sent Joel as a prophet to Judah to warn about a plague of locusts sent by God to punish them for their disobedience.
  - God did not then, and does not now, want to punish His people, but wants to send blessings.

- God wants people to change their hearts and repent of sin.
- Though Joel lived 800 years before Jesus' time on earth, he prophesied concerning the coming of the Spirit after Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.
- We read in the book of Acts in the New Testament of Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost—a sermon in which Peter quotes Joel's words and says that Joel's prophecy is now fulfilled.
- We can be saved by faith that leads us to follow God's commands.

8. Timeline Work: Questions and Answers

- Have a student point out Moses and the plagues on a timeline. Reveal locust graphics and a picture of the locust plague on Egypt. What did the locusts do that God sent to the land of Egypt?
- Have a student point out Joel on timeline. What did Joel say God would send to punish His people if they didn't turn away from their sin?
- Have a student point out Jesus and Peter and the Day of Pentecost on a timeline. Show by the timeline that there were 800 years between the time Joel lived and the time Jesus lived on earth. Reveal large clock with a second hand. Also reveal five large cards marked 8 seconds, 80 seconds, 80 minutes, 800 minutes, and 800 years, respectively. Have the students watch 8 seconds go by on clock. Then have them watch 80 seconds go by. Ask if anyone knows how long 80 minutes would be. Ask if anyone can predict exactly what will be happening to them 80 minutes from now. Tell them that 800 minutes is the same as about a half a day (13 hours, 20 minutes). Ask if anyone can predict exactly what will be happening to them 800 minutes from now—what pajamas they'll be wearing, exactly what their mother or daddy will be doing and saying, exactly what the weather will be like, exactly what their dog or cat will be doing. Point out again on timeline that Joel lived 800 years before Jesus lived on earth, yet Joel prophesied about things that happened in New Testament times.
- Ask how Joel could have prophesied about Jesus 800 years before Jesus lived and died. Read together Acts 2:16-23. How could Peter have known that what Joel had prophesied was about Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
- Read together Acts 2:37-38. What did Peter tell the people to do because of their sin?

**Things to Get or Do  
for Sunday Morning**

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## Joel — a Prophet to Judah

**Theme:** Inspired Scripture — Respecting God’s Word

### Wednesday Night Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Measure What You Know!

**Memory Verse:** Provide an opportunity for students who have not yet recited Memory Verses for the class. Move to the Memory Verse wall display featured on page 11 of this Guide. Talk with the students about the key verses they have learned about Measuring by God’s Rule and how these verses will help them their whole lives.

#### Prayer

#### Starter

Read aloud Joel 2:1-10 with expression and drama. Help students “see” the army of locusts invading the land. Talk about why God would send locusts upon His people, what they should learn, and what they should do?

#### Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** *Illustrate the horror of a locust plague.*

Read Joel 1:1-7. Provide photos of locusts and a locust swarm. These can be found through a search engine on the Internet. Give each student a clicker that is triggered with the thumb. Describe a locust plague and allow the students to click the clickers and keep clicking them. Talk about how horrible it must have been to be in a locusts swarm. What were God’s people supposed to learn from the locusts?

2. **Objective:** *Understanding repentance means to decide to change.*

Put a strip of tape on the floor that has various intersections. At the end of each path, put a different shape such as a star, circle, or square. Cover the shape with black paper. Choose one student. Tell him he needs to reach the star. As he chooses a path and starts down it, show him the end and see if he decides to “repent” and go a different direction. Talk about our need to repent to be right with God.



#### Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night

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3. *Objective: Remember and review the prophets studied.*

Use the descriptions of different prophets from Lesson 10, Wednesday night, page 52. Expand this activity by adding the descriptions that follow. Review the prophets by having students draw from a container and answering out loud in class.

- God instructed this prophet to marry an unfaithful woman named Gomer to show the Israelites how they had been unfaithful to God.
- God appeared to this prophet in the temple, and the prophet realized he was sinful before a holy, holy, holy God.
- This prophet explained what would happen to Judah if they did not repent. They would be taken over by an army as a locust swarm can cover the land.

4. *Objective: Measuring up in attitude and action—evaluating ourselves.*

Have students make a list of five ways they can demonstrate their love for God at their age and in their circumstances. Give each student a 4 x 6 card with a grid on it as depicted below. Let each student fill in the left side with the list just created. Then ask each student to privately rate himself by checking the correct box opposite each attitude or action with 1 being bad and 5 being good. Discuss how to improve each one. Take up the cards to throw them away. No one else needs to know what's on them.

Attitude or Action	1	2	3	4	5

5. *Objective: Measuring by God's rule one more time.*

Talk again about how David was the standard or measure for a good king. Did any of the kings of Israel measure up? NO!! Did any of the kings of Judah measure up? Some came close! Ask the students if we need to be concerned about "measuring up?" When our life is over, what will be said of us? \_\_\_\_\_ walked in the way of Jesus. Or \_\_\_\_\_ walked in the ways of the world? Don't we all want to "measure up" to please God and be a good influence on others?

6. Practice saying the Old Testament prophets from Isaiah to Malachi.

**Measuring Kings:** Measure Josiah (2 Kings 22:1-2)