

Sunday, February 27, 2022 Alta Vista Baptist Church

"Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." – Joel 2:13

Four Problems (vs 1:1-12)

- a) Plague of L_____ (vs. 1:4)
- b) No more W_____ (vs. 1:5)
- c) Enemies have I_____ (vs. 1:6-8)
- d) Devastating D_____ (vs. 1:9-12)
 - "...the people's joy is withered away."

Three Reactions (vs 1:13-2:17)

1) R_____ (vs. 1:13-2:11)

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you... And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." – 1 Peter 5:7 & 10

(Psalm 27:1-3, 34:4, 62:1-2, 138:3, 145:18-19)

2) R_____ (vs. 2:12-14)

"But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the Lord their God and to David's descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the Lord and of his goodness." – Hosea 3:5 (Hosea 6:1, 14:1-2, James 4:8)

3) R_____ (vs. 2:15-17)

Consecrate (vs. 16)

- Weep (vs. 17)
- Pray (vs. 17)

• "Starts And Ends" Hillsong UNITED

DIGGING DEEPER

(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

Q1: Have you ever experienced devastation? How did that change you? **Q2**: How do you typically react when tough situations that are out of your control happen to you?

Q3: Joel 1:15 tells us that destruction comes from God. How does it feel to be confronted with the truth that the Lord brought devastation to his people? Q4: Read the Psalm verses from point #1. How has leaning on God's

strength helped you respond to your past sin?

Q5: Read Isaiah 55:6-8. What does this passage say will happen when we return to the Lord?

Q6: What is drawing you away from your relationship with Jesus? What steps do you need to take in order to return to Jesus "with all your heart?" **Q7**: Read Ephesians 4:15-16. Why is it important to "regather" after living through these past two years together?

Q8: Now that COVID restrictions are being lifted more and more, in what ways will you make an effort to "regather" with fellow believers?