

SERIES: Ancient Voices for a Fractured Age
WEEK 8: The God Who Restores What Was Lost
TEXT: Joel 2:12–29 (ESV)

BIG IDEA: WITH GOD, OUR WORST SEASONS DON'T HAVE TO WRITE THE FINAL CHAPTER OF OUR LIVES.

1. IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO RESPOND TO GOD

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." **Joel 2:12–13a (ESV)**

"What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten." **Joel 1:4 (ESV)**

"For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?"
Joel 2:11 (ESV)

"Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." **Joel 2:13b (ESV)**

PERSONAL APPLICATION: AM I SO FOCUSED ON WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT I'M MISSING WHAT GOD IS ASKING ME TO DO NOW?

2. GOD CAN REDEEM WHAT LOOKS IRRETRIEVABLE

"Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. **The LORD answered** and said to his people, 'Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied...'" **Joel 2:18–19 (ESV)**

"The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil." **Joel 2:24 (ESV)**

"I will restore to you the **years** that the swarming locust has eaten..."
Joel 2:25 (ESV)

"For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." **Genesis 41:52 (ESV)**

"You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you." **Joel 2:26 (ESV)**

PERSONAL APPLICATION: IS THERE A PART OF MY STORY I HAVE QUIETLY CONCLUDED IS BEYOND GOD'S ABILITY TO REDEEM?

3. GOD'S GREATEST GIFT IS HIS PRESENCE

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit." **Joel 2:28–29 (ESV)**

"This is what was uttered through the prophet Joel. And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh..." **Acts 2:16, 17 (ESV)**

CLOSING

The locusts may have devoured years, but with God, the years that remain can still become the most fruitful years of your life.