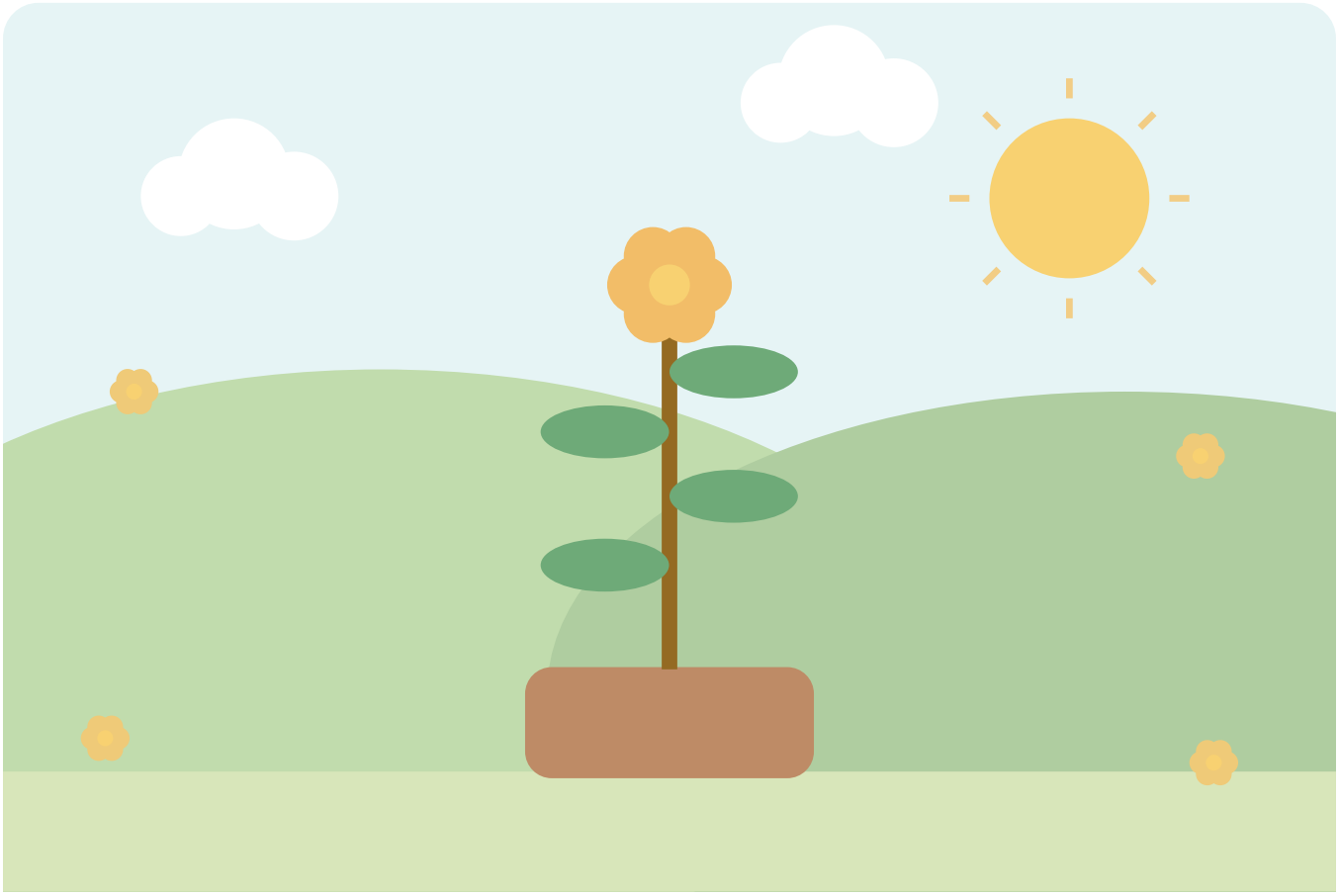
GENESIS TO REVELATION | PROPHETIC LESSON

Returning with a Whole Heart

Joel 2:12-13,21-27



YOUR BIBLE READING

A sincere return involves the heart and actions, with mercy and renewed life held in view.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Call to Return Wholeheartedly

Joel 2:12-13,21-27



Joel brings a prophetic call to return to God with the whole heart. The selected verses begin with an invitation that is still open: even now, the people may turn. Fasting, weeping, and mourning are named as expressions of response. These are words addressed to a community through a prophet, not a scene in which a child is ordered to invent sadness or stop eating without a caregiver's knowledge and support.

The message tells people to tear their hearts rather than their garments. Tearing clothing could express grief, but the prophet points toward an inward response deeper than a visible display. The words are figurative. They do not tell anyone to injure their body. A whole-hearted return means taking the relationship and one's actions seriously, instead of relying on a dramatic outward sign while refusing to change what needs attention.

The reason for returning is God's character. He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abundant in loving kindness, and able to relent from disaster. The invitation is not based on the claim that people must somehow become powerful enough to control him. The message gives them reason to seek mercy. It joins a serious call for change with a description of God that makes return more than a hopeless demand to repair everything alone.

The selected reading then moves to words addressed to the land and animals: they need not be afraid. Pastures spring up, trees bear fruit, and fig trees and vines yield again. The picture of hope reaches beyond one person's feelings. Soil, grazing creatures, fruit, and crops belong to a community's life. The prophecy speaks of renewed provision in a world where food and the living land matter to people and animals together.

Remember: I can choose an honest step toward repair instead of only making a display.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Hope for Land, Animals, and People

Joel 2:12-13,21-27



The people of Zion are called to rejoice in God. Rain will come in its proper season, including early and later rains, and the land's produce will return. Threshing floors will be full of grain, and vats will have new wine and oil. These are concrete images of agricultural provision. The promise concerns a community that knows how deeply harvests, water, and the health of the land affect ordinary life and the ability to eat.

God speaks of restoring the years consumed by locusts. The passage names different forms of the destructive swarm and calls it a great army. The image remembers real devastation rather than presenting the return as a pleasant change with no earlier trouble. Yet the words now point toward repair and renewed food. The prophecy does not ask listeners to pretend the loss never happened; it announces that their future is not described only by the damage.

The people will eat, be satisfied, and praise God for his wonderful dealings with them. They will know that he is among Israel and that he is their God. The message joins provision with recognition and worship. It is not only a forecast about crops separated from the relationship at the passage's beginning. The call to return and the promise of renewed life belong to the same prophetic reading, with God's presence named as part of its hope.

These are particular prophetic words to Israel, not a formula that guarantees larger harvests, more money, or restored possessions whenever someone prays or fasts. Children do not cause a disaster by failing to perform a religious act. A present-day example of repair might involve adults restoring a damaged garden and supporting neighbors after a storm. That example is not Joel's event or a guaranteed outcome. It helps us notice how hope can involve practical care for people and land together.

Pause and think: What could show that someone's wish to change reaches beyond an outward display?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Look for a Return That Has Substance



In an imaginary group project, someone gives a loud apology for wasting materials but then keeps doing exactly the same thing. What would show a deeper response? It could include replacing what is reasonably possible, learning a careful routine, or asking for help. This ordinary example is not a scene from Joel. It helps explain the difference between a visible performance and taking the needed change seriously.

The prophecy names land and animals as well as people. With an adult, look at one local connection between water, plants, creatures, and food. You might notice a garden bed, a tree, or a picture of a farm. What does each depend on? Caring for one part of a living place may help other parts too, though children are not responsible for repairing an entire environment.

You do not need to make yourself cry, fast secretly, tear clothing, or harm your body to explore this passage. Talk with a caregiver about honest reflection and suitable practices. If a community has suffered loss, practical help and compassion matter. You can learn about its needs respectfully without deciding that the people deserved the disaster or failed to pray correctly.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Joel calls Israel to a sincere return and announces renewed provision, naming land, animals, and people within the hope.

What could show that someone’s wish to change reaches beyond an outward display?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What does tearing the heart rather than clothing point toward?

2. Who is included in the passage's images of renewed life?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Notice mercy as the reason for hope.
- ☐ Read the images of restored land, crops, and satisfied people.
- ☐ Hear the call to return with a sincere heart.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw rain, new grass, fruit trees, animals, and grain around a symbol for an honest fresh start.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can choose an honest step toward repair instead of only making a display.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Joel 2:12-13,21-27

A thoughtful conversation

Explain heart-tearing as figurative language, never bodily harm, and fasting as an adult-guided religious practice rather than a task for children. These particular restoration promises must not become guarantees of prosperity or claims that disaster victims prayed incorrectly. Keep the selected land, animal, rain, and food images connected with Israel's prophetic call to return.

Activity answers

1. A sincere inward return rather than only an outward display.
2. Land, animals, and the people of Israel are included.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help me respond honestly, seek mercy, and care for people and the living world.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Joel 2:12-13,21-27. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original symbolic vector artwork by DigiPick.store; a learning aid, not an additional Bible event.
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