

GOD'S POWER IS FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

Family Devotion — Lesson 69

MEMORY VERSE — JOEL 2:12

“Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning.”

- God wanted the nation of Israel to turn from their sins and turn back to Him. This is called REPENTANCE. He didn't want them to just acknowledge their sin verbally, but to actually be broken in their hearts for sinning against God. Fasting, weeping, and mourning was how God wanted them to express their repentant hearts.
- God sent an army of locusts (bugs) to get Israel's attention. The locusts destroyed the land resulting in famine. Their whole way of life was destroyed. This was the hand of God at work.
- It was God's power that directed the locusts to do what they did. The purpose was to “bug” Israel enough to get them to repent.
- This may have seemed like an evil act of God, but it was actually the best thing that could happen to them since it would restore their relationship with God. Their relationship with God was most important.
- This powerful judgment was actually the grace of God in action: “turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness...” (Joel 2:13).
- “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Has God ever “bugged” you with something to get you to repent? Explain.
- Is there something in your life right now that you need to repent of?
- According to Hebrews 12:11, what is the purpose of God's chastening?

PRAYER TIME

- Ask God to show you what area of your life you need repentance.
- Thank God for being patient with you.

CHALLENGE

- The next time something bugs you, ask God if He is trying to get your attention.