

Chat with the Children

- IOU - what does it stand for?
 - when would you use it?
 - what should happen before you can rip up or throw away this bit of paper?
- Paying back... God paying back...

Introduction

- The people's desire was to not be cut off from God
 - they'd learned their lesson, and so they were repenting even when they weren't quite sure if the locust plague was indeed sent as judgement
 - they dare not lose relationship with God
 - it was worth giving up everything for...
- What we have in the rest of Joel, starting here, is a working out of God's pleasure in those who put relationship with him first

Relief (v.18-20a)

- The plague will lift
- God takes pity (v.19)
 - grain, wine and oil will be available again
 - promise of dignity, in place of shame
 - "army" (locusts) will be driven away and dispersed, probably by wind
 - its stench (v.20) probably refers to the smell of rotting locust corpses!

Restoration (v.20b-24)

- God restores things back to the way they were
 - wild animals will have food again
 - trees will bear fruit - fig and vine are picked out
 - rains will come to water the land
 - and grain will grow, wine (grapes) and oil - all to the point of being harvested
- God does great things

Repayment (v.25-26)

- God pays back more, for the years that have been missed out
 - picture goes further, not just a back to where things were, but on into blessing and abundance
 - a generosity of spirit from God...

Reality (v.27)

- All ultimately signs of the the reality of God's presence with his people, the real blessing
 - I am in Israel: God's presence with his people
 - I am the Lord your God: God's possession of his people
 - and there will be no other: God's jealousy for his people
 - never again will my people be shamed: this is restoration of relationship, head held high, forgiveness...
 - (all of which more next week!!)
- Now and not yet of this...
 - notice this is a promise, future tense