



kids

Family Devotional June 14, 2020

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Turn back to me (repent) with your whole heart, with fasting, tears, and mourning."
Joel 2:12

Lord we come and turn our hearts to you, may you be lifted high!



SONG "Come to My Rescue"



Last week we talked about how our greatest call in life is to love God and from that love we are to love others as we would want others to love us. This week as I sought The Father's heart for what to share He led me to Joel 2. I believe it is on the Father's heart to help children see that the actions we are seeing in the streets of America stem from: hearts and minds that have turned away from God. We often think that children may not know what's going on but, more often than not they hear and see more than we think they do. We need to help them make sense of it all and do so from a Godly perspective. They need to know that God desires for all people to repent and believe in Jesus and be saved, but not all people will make that choice and with that choice comes consequences.

Today's devotional is from the book of Joel. Joel is a book in the Old Testament. Joel was a prophet, do you know what a prophet is? A prophet is a person who hears from God and speaks what they hear. In the Old Testament times people did not have Jesus or the New Testament to teach them how to live. During that time God would send His prophets to speak to the people. Joel was one of God's prophets. In the book of Joel people had turned away from God and were not following His ways, so He sent Joel to give them a warning, a choice, and a promise.

Joel told the people to be sad for their sins and for not following God's rules. He told them to put on uncomfortable clothes, fast (spend time praying instead of eating), take time to focus totally on God and to pray to God. Joel told them that if they did these things God would give them a blessing. In Joel 2:14 Joel told the people that things were bad **but it was not too late to repent and turn back to God.** Joel told them that things were bad now but there is a day coming called the Day of the Lord which will be even worse. This would be a time when God would punish all people who choose to not believe in Jesus and who live wrong lives against God. Joel ended God's warnings with God's promises to restore the land and to keep them safe if they turned to Him and believed Him. Joel told them if they made a choice to do this God would forgive all their sins and bless them. God is kind and wants all people to repent and turn away from their sin (bad choices) so they do not have to face His punishment. Because He is so loving and patient He gives us a choice. But like we said earlier there are consequences for choosing to disobey God's law. Today we see many people who are not filled with God's love, who are filled with hate and who are choosing to turn away from God. Did you know God's word calls us, those who love Him and obey His laws should pray for those who don't know Him. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14 discuss what this means and pray that God would turn the hearts of those that don't know Him to repent and turn to Him. Remember that God blesses obedience and His word says, where two or more are gathered in His name He is there with you. May you feel His presence as you pray.

Today's family activity is on the next page.



Additional Scripture To Read & Discuss Throughout The Week
- Romans 5:12 - Deuteronomy 28 - 2 Peter 3:9 -

This week's craft:

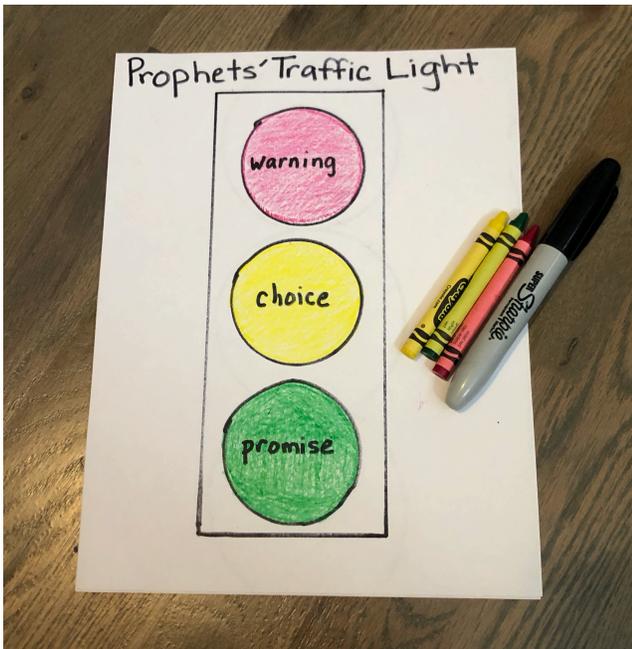
PROPHETS' TRAFFIC LIGHT

Make a traffic light to help remember that many of God's prophets gave God's messages as warnings, choices, and promises.

Supplies: Paper, crayons or markers, cups for tracing.

Instructions:

1. Trace 3 circles onto the paper using the cup then draw a rectangle around it so it looks like a traffic light.
2. Color the circles red, yellow, green.
3. Write the words "WARNING" on the red circle, "CHOICE" on the yellow circle and "PROMISE" on the green circle.
4. Place it where it will remind you that God gives you warnings, choices, and promises. You can always choose to turn from wrongdoing and do what is right in God's eyes!



Review These Questions While Making The Prophets' Traffic Light

What three things did Joel's message have?

A warning, a choice, and a promise.

What was Joel's warning? (The Day of the Lord is coming.)

What was the choice? (Turn your hearts back to God.)

What were God's promises? (To restore the land, bless and save the people that turn to Him.)

Hang it where it will remind you that God gives you warnings, choices, and promises. You can always choose to turn from wrongdoing and do what is right in God's eyes!