

Lesson #3-13

Joel's Prophecy of Hope

Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

**Key Verse:**

Rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for [God] is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Joel 2:13

The Point:

God patiently and lovingly calls us to repent.

Unit Theme (November 29—December 20)

The Hope of the Messiah

Handprint Prayers

Learn a pattern for prayer.

Supplies:

- † Pens or pencils
- † Paper

Instructions:

1. Read Joel 2:12-13, if you have not already.
2. **Prayer is one way we can turn our hearts to God. But it can be difficult to know what to say when we pray. A pattern can help.**
3. **Everyone trace your hand on your paper.**
4. **We can use our handprint to pray. Each finger will remind us to pray for someone.**
5. Point to each finger as you explain each step.
6. **Everyone hold up one hand. Which finger is closest to you? [Your thumb.] Our thumb can remind us to pray for those closest to us: our friends and our family.**
7. **Everyone hold up your index finger. This pointer finger will remind us to pray for all the people who help to teach us. You could pray for your teachers, pastor, and parents.**
8. **Next is your third finger. This stands the tallest, so we will use it to remind us to pray for our leaders and our government.**
9. **Did you know that your ring finger is the weakest finger? This finger will remind us to pray for those who are sick, sad, or lonely, and those who need some extra help.**
10. **Which finger is left? The pinky finger will remind us to pray for ourselves.**
11. **If you would like, you can write this down on the drawing of your hand so you can remember. Review the fingers.**
12. **Let's try to use this pattern to pray everyday this week as a way to turn our hearts to God.**