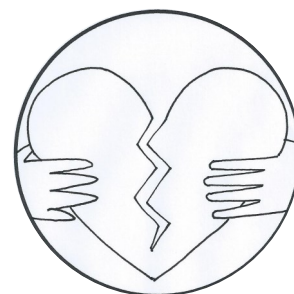




## Lesson #3-14

## JOEL'S PROPHECY OF HOPE

Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

**Key Verse:**

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 (December 1—December 22)**

The Hope of the Messiah

## GETTING LOST

*Tell stories of feeling lost.*

*Supplies:*

- † Optional: children's book about getting lost

*Preparation:*

1. If you are using this activity with younger participants, you can read and reflect on a children's book where the main character gets lost, or you can tell a simple story about being lost instead of relying on children discussing their experiences.

*Instructions:*

1. Welcome worshippers (or participants) and invite them to think of a time when they got lost. If you have a personal story, share it at this time. Optional: Read the children's book or tell the simple story.
2. **Take a moment to share a story of getting lost with those around you. How did you feel? How did you find your way again?**

3. **Did you learn anything from your experience of being lost?** Invite worshippers to share either with those around them, or as a large group.
4. **I think most of us have been lost before. We are not perfect, and sometimes we lose track of where we are, or where we should be going. Sometimes, you can know where you are, but still feel lost if you do not know what to do or how to keep going. God told the Israelites the best way to live: by loving God and by loving their neighbors. God wanted to be in relationship with them. Even though the Israelites might not have recognized it, we will see in today's reading from Joel that they were lost. They had lost track of the way they should live and had turned from God.**