**BCM Bible Study – April 8 - 9, 2015**

**Minor Prophets Theme 4: Jesus is Good News to All**

**{God’s forgiveness of sins is open to all through Jesus and comes when you repent}**

In the beginning of Joel, the prophet talks about the locusts that just came and destroyed everything. Deuteronomy 28:1 God tells the people if they obey His law, He will bless them and lists out blessings. In Deuteronomy 28:15 God tells the people if they forget Him and His law, He will curse them, and then lists curses, including locusts in verse 38. Joel uses a recent drought and locust plague as an object lesson to warn of a future invasion of Israel in the Day of the Lord. If the nation will repent and return to the Lord, God will restore His relationship with her and bless her.

**Read Joel 2:12 - 17 – God wants us to repent**

What does God want His people to do? What does that look like today and in your life?

What verses stick out to you?

Why would God allow or make this (Joel 2:1-11) happen, other than promising it in Deuteronomy?

(Isaiah 26:9-10)

(Do such curses connected with the Sinai law covenant apply to God’s New Testament people? See Galatians 3:10-14)

Why do you think repentance is so important to God?

**Read Joel 2: 18-27 - God wishes to grant mercy**

Why did God respond this way?

How do you view God when it comes to being merciful?

(2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

**Read Joel 2: 28-32 - This mercy is open to all who repent**

What do you learn about God and His love in these passages?

**Read Acts 2:22-39 – Jesus was this forgiveness**

Joel 2:28-32a was Peter’s sermon text on Pentecost Acts 2:17-2; after the Holy Spirit came down and enabled men to speak in many different languages some asked what this meant and others said they had too much wine.

Why does Peter quote Joel here and what do we learn about Jesus?

Does this change or encourage your view of God’s grace?