

Bible Reading: Joel 2:23-32

Year C, Pentecost 23

By Beth Barnett

This is a creative Bible reading with sound effects.

You will need:

- Copy of text, either on screen or a printed copy for everyone
- Rain sticks
- Several containers of dry rice with lids
- Kitchen sponges and shallow containers of water
- Saucepans and wooden spoons

Time required:

5-7 minutes

Connect

Our Old Testament Reading today is from the book of the prophet Joel. Prophets were quirky hilarious people who delivered God's serious message to God's people in really memorable ways. Sometimes those ways were gross, embarrassing or just extremely funny.

Today we are going to listen to part of God's message through the prophet Joel, but he's not here anymore, he died in the centuries before we even started counting our years like we do now.

So not having Joel here, we are going to have to do our own quirky things to hear God's message with impact.

We are going to add some sound effects.

Practice the list of sound-effects below. Depending on the enthusiasm, size and dynamics of your community, you might ask everyone to participate in all of the sound effects, or divide into groups, allocating a sound to each group. This can be a way of helping people participate without being too overwhelmed by the activity if they are not accustomed to this kind of Bible engagement.

Rain:

Give some people a Rain stick and invite others to make “rain” noises with ‘double finger clapping’. If you don’t have access to rain sticks, simple instructions to make Rainsticks can be found here.

<http://happyhooligans.ca/rain-sticks/>

Crunching grain

Give some people a small container of rice filled almost to capacity, leaving just enough room for the grains to make a crunching sound when it is shaken.

Demonstrate and practice,

Squelching grapes/olives

Give some people a shallow tray (a recycled take-away container would be ideal) with a damp sponge. Use only a few tablespoons of water. Less water makes better squelching sounds! Demonstrate how to ‘squelch’ the sponge catching the water in the tray and re-soak the sponge to keep squelching.

Locusts

Invite the group to click their fingers quickly and repeatedly to make the noise of a swarm of locusts: demonstrate and practice.

Fake burping

This sound effect perhaps is one to ask for volunteers for who have a particular ‘talent’ to provide this distinctive sound effect.

People

This is for everyone to join in with a ‘Praise the Lord’ or ‘Hallelujah’ when their age or gender is mentioned. Practice.

Portents

Supply some saucepans and wooden spoons to create thunderous portents: demonstrate and practice.

Calling out to the Lord

Invite the group to call out ‘Lord help’ or ‘Lord Save us’ or ‘Lord rescue us’: demonstrate and practice.

When you have practiced each of the sound-effects, read the entire passage inserting the sound effects.

Content

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2:23 O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

(Rain sounds)

2:24 The threshing floors shall be full of grain,

(Crunching grain sounds)

the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

(Squelching grapes/olives sounds)

2:25 I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

(Locusts sounds)

2:26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

(Fake burping sounds)

2:27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

2:28 Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your

2:29 Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

(People sounds)

2:30 I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

2:31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes.

(Portents sounds)

2:32 Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

(Invite everyone in Calling out to the Lord)



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