

How the Peacock Got Its Feathers

By Clayton Francis & Cherylann Francis

The Book of Joel

The Bible book of Joel speaks of consequences when we do not listen and follow instructions. In Deuteronomy 28:15 and 38, the children of Israel were warned what would happen if they stopped listening to God and following His instructions.

Read Joel 1:2-12.

Ask:

What happened when the people of Judah were disobedient? Did anything like that happen before? (Joel 1:2)

What attitude did Joel tell the people to have to show repentance and why? (Joel 1:5, 8, 11, 13 and 14; 2:1,2).

Read Joel 2:12-17.

Ask:

How would the Lord respond to repentance? (Joel 2:18)

How would the people be restored if/when they had a change of heart? (Joel 2:32-27; 3:18).

After reading the three chapters of Joel, give examples of mercy, grace, forgiveness, and hope for the future.

Read “How the Peacock Got Its Feathers.”

Afterwards, ask children/students to consider the following:

Do you think Courtney and Pratt’s neighbors asked them to stop being mean and to stop playing pranks on them? What happened when Courtney and Pratt did not listen to the forest animals’ requests?

Initially, how do you think the forest animals would respond to Courtney and Pratt’s invitation to the “I’m Sorry” party?

After the incident with Joel the peacock at the “I’m Sorry” party, did Courtney and Pratt have a change of heart and behavior? How did the other animals, including Joel, respond to Courtney and Pratt’s change of heart and behavior?

What can we learn from the Prophet Joel’s book and from Joel the peacock about mercy, grace, forgiveness, and hope for the future?