

IT'S
3:16

A 7-WEEK STUDY GUIDE

2

**The
Roar
from
Zion**

Each session will begin with an opportunity to help you connect with and get to know one another.

Where is one place in the world you've never been that you want to visit?
What would you do once you got there?

Play the "Session Two: The Roar from Zion" video lesson.

What stood out to you from the video?

In the following section, you will explore Bible passages and take part in discussion to apply insights from this session. If time is a concern, please choose just a few questions to discuss in your group.

Read Joel 3:16 & Psalm 46:1-11

1. How do the words of Joel 3:16 change the way we think about God? How do they change the way we think about ourselves? How do they change the way we live and act in the world?

“

**The Lord
will roar
from Zion
and thun-
der from
Jerusalem;
the earth
and the
heavens
will trem-
ble. But
the Lord
will be a
refuge for
his people,
a strong-
hold for
the people
of Israel.**

JOEL 3:16

2. During the video session, we learned that the majesty of God will often cause us to stand in awe of Him. Why should we consistently look for moments when we can stand in awe of God's creative power? How can meditating upon God's awe-inspiring feats give us confidence during seasons of uncertainty?

3. What is something in God's creation or about God's character that causes you to stand in awe of Him? If one comes to mind, share a story from your life when you experienced awe and wonder because of something God had done before your eyes.

4. According to these verses, why can we find refuge and strength in the Lord's presence? Where are some unhealthy places where we may seek to find protection and security from the troubles of life?

5. In Psalm 46:10, the Lord challenges us, saying, "Be still, and know that I am God." Why must we become still in order to understand who God is on a deeper level? What is one thing you're willing to sacrifice this week in order to add a moment of stillness to your life?

Read Isaiah 8:11-17

6. Why does the Lord say that we should not fear conspiracies or the common worries of the world? Why does the Lord declare that He is the only one we should fear and dread? What does this look like from the standpoint of the Christian life?

7. In these verses, we see that to some the Lord serves as a secure sanctuary, while to others He is a stone that causes people to trip and fall. How does the Lord bring security to those trust in Him? Why do those who refuse to trust in the Lord end up stumbling and falling?

For over a thousand years, Christians have used the Scriptures to practice a simple form of meditation called lectio divina. In Latin, the practice means “divine reading,” and millions of believers throughout history have found wisdom and comfort from this ancient practice. Each week during this series, we will guide you through a version of this meditation practice that you can use either in a group or on your own.

Begin this time by closing your eyes and spending a few moments in silence, focusing on nothing but the sound of your breath. When you find a moment of stillness, begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time of meditation.

1

Read the words of Joel 3:16, “The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.” Read those words several times over a few minutes, paying attention to every small detail. Focus on anything that stands out.

2

Imagine that the Holy Spirit is speaking the words of this verse directly to you. Pay attention to how you feel as the Spirit speaks to you. Notice the thoughts that pass through your mind. Spend a few minutes meditating upon what the Spirit is saying to you.

3

Shift from a time of meditation to a time of prayer. Use the next few minutes to share with God what you think and feel about the word He spoke to you. Bring up any questions you might have for Him. Ask Him to lead you to understand and experience His truth.

4

In order to end this prayer meditation, simply sit in silence for a few minutes and listen to what the Spirit says to you. Notice what the Lord is teaching you through His word. When your time of silence is complete, thank the Lord for guiding you into His wisdom and love.

During each week for this series, we will provide a simple prompt and an opportunity to write and journal your thoughts. As we pursue a good life of following God, we will find a great benefit from putting our thoughts into words and thinking through how we can put our words into action. Do not overthink anything you write or try to find a “perfect” answer. Simply write what comes to mind.

Please spend at least 15 minutes writing about the question below:

How close would you say you currently feel to God? What are some barriers that stand between you and Him? What are some ways you feel connected to Him?

This is a place where you can write each other's prayer requests and make notes when God answers prayer. Pray for each other's requests out loud together as a group. If you're new to group prayer, you may pray silently.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports