

February 12, 2026

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Reclaim.

Series Connect Notes.

Announcements:

All in Prayer	<i>We are gathering to pray together on Wednesday 11th March 2026. You can join the prayer here: https://c3syd.church/prayer/. This will be followed by a special CG Leader Meeting with Ps Alex from 7:00pm–7:30pm. Please be there as it will be a leadership equipping moment!</i>
Online Prayer	If someone in your connect group can't make it to a face-to-face prayer meeting, our Online Prayer Meeting is a great alternative! Here's the link to join or share: https://c3syd.church/prayer/
Freedom Ministry	Freedom Ministry is Holy Spirit directed and empowered prayer ministry aimed to bring healing to an individual, spirit, soul and body. If you or anyone in your cg is interested in accessing this ministry, please fill in the form below and our team will be in touch: https://c3syd.info/freedom

Message Series Overview

Message Series Title:	Reclaim
Message Series Scriptures:	Joel 2:22-25 (NIV), Joel 2:21-27 (MSG)
Series Purpose:	In 2024 we set aside the year to PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD, in 2025 we felt God calling us to usher in a great HARVEST of NEW believers, and in 2026 we believe God is calling us to RECLAIM. Having sensed the word 'Reclaim' for 2026 a few weeks prior, I felt encouraged that this was a picture of God equipping & preparing our Church, to be sent out into "No man's land", to RECLAIM those areas that

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	have been lost or stolen. I believe He wants us to do this with great faith & force, like an army!
Weekly Overview:	<p>Week 1 -Reclaim Vision Launch</p> <p>Week 2 -Reclaiming our Hearts</p> <p>Week 3 -The God of Reclaiming and Restoration</p>

Week 1: Connect week notes

Connect Week Notes	Week 1
Message Title:	Reclaim Vision Launch
Message Date:	Sunday 15 th February 2026
<p>Key Scriptures for this week: Joel 2:22-25 (NIV), and 2:21-27 (MSG)</p>	
<p>Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:</p> <p>The Book of Joel Little is known about the prophet Joel, although his concern for Judah and Jerusalem suggests that he ministered in Judah. Joel told of a locust plague that had struck Israel and which, he said, foreshadowed the “day of the Lord.” The day of the Lord was a time greatly anticipated by the Israelites because they believed that God would then judge the nations and restore Israel to her former glory. Yet, said Joel, God would punish not only the nations but unfaithful Israel as well. Joel urged everyone to repent and told of a day when God would “pour out [his] Spirit on all flesh” (2:28). That day arrived on the first Christian Pentecost (Acts 2:17). While the date of the book is uncertain (ninth to sixth century B.C.), its message</p>	
<p>Connect Group Message:</p> <p>Vision 2026: A Year to Reclaim</p> <p>Definition:</p>	

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To retrieve or recover (something previously lost, given, or paid); obtain the return of. Bring (waste land or land formerly under water) under cultivation.

VISION PICTURE

'Trench Warfare & No-man's land'

During the last day of Summer Camp in Jan this year, Trent Membray was praying over teenagers - rows & rows of them! As I watched Trent prayed over each person, row by row they fell to the ground. I suddenly saw the teenagers as lines of soldiers being sent out to battle from trenches. In this picture, as the soldiers continued to be sent out line by line, God **highlighted the ground** to me. The physical battle ground that they were running onto from the trench, **was riddled with shrapnel, barbed wire and chaos!**

Afterwards I looked up the name of this land - "No man's land." I read - "In war, in trench warfare, 'no man's land' refers to **the stretch of open ground** between two opposing armies' front-line trenches. It typically refers to an area that is **unclaimed, unowned, or uninhabited**, often due to fear or uncertainty about its ownership or control."

Having sensed the word 'Reclaim' for 2026 a few weeks prior, I felt encouraged that this was a **picture of God equipping & preparing our Church, to be sent out into "No man's land", to RECLAIM** those areas that have been lost or stolen. I believe He wants us to do this with great faith & force, like an army!

KEY SCRIPTURES

Joel 2:22-25 (NIV)

'Do not be afraid, you wild animals, for the pastures in the wilderness **are becoming green**. The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches. Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. **The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten."**

Joel 2:21-27 (MSG)

The Trees Are Bearing Fruit Again

Fear not, Earth! Be glad and celebrate! God has done great things. Fear not, wild animals! The fields and meadows are greening up. The trees are bearing fruit again: a bumper crop of fig trees and vines! Children of Zion, celebrate! Be glad in your God. He's giving you a teacher to train you how to live right— Teaching, like rain out of heaven, showers of words to refresh and nourish your soul, just as he used to do. And *plenty of food for your body— silos full of grain, casks of wine and barrels of olive oil. I'll make up for the years of the locust, the great locust devastation.*

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A call to Reclaim things in our church:

- Worship
- Attendance - weekly
- Giving & Finances
- People (A Great Return and A Great harvest continued)
- Giftings and callings to be mobilised and on mission
- Influence (In Australia & for our Movement)

Dave Hall – “one of the best things that could happen for the Australian Church is for Oxford Falls & SYD to do well.”

A call to Reclaim things for THE Church:

- Identity / Gender
- Marriage & Family
- Purity, Sex & Relationships

A call to Reclaim things in your life Personally:

God's heart and desire is to restore His people to their intended purpose and relationship with Him. What do you need to reclaim this year? What in your life needs redemption, restoration or renewal?

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

Please select questions below for your group discussion:

1. From Joel 2:21–27, what stands out to you about God's character when He promises to 'restore the years the locusts have eaten'? How does this shape the way you view areas in your life that feel lost, wasted, or broken?
2. Ps Alex's vision paints picture of God equipping & preparing our Church to be sent out into 'no man's land' to reclaim what has been lost. What does 'no man's land' represent for you personally right now?
3. Ps Alex spoke about 2026 being a year for our church to RECLAIM—worship, attendance, finances, people, callings, influence. Which of these areas do you feel most stirred to stand in faith for?
4. Reclaiming often requires courage and action. What is one thing you sense God asking you to reclaim in your own life this year (e.g., passion, habits, relationships, vision, faith, purpose)?

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5. A key part of RECLAIM is people—seeing lives restored, returning, or coming to Christ for the first time. Who in your world might God be putting on your heart to reach out to, invite, or walk alongside this year? What could be one simple next step?
6. As a group, spend 2 minutes in a time of Holy Spirit guided reflection on today's discussion.
7. As a group, pray for boldness and opportunities to reach those we're praying for on our RECLAIM cards.

Week 2: Connect week notes

Connect Week Notes	Week 2
Message Title:	Reclaiming our Hearts
Message Date:	Sunday 22 nd February 2026
Key Scriptures for this week: Joel 2:12-17	
<p>Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:</p> <p>Setting the Context: Before the Promise, There Is a Call</p> <p>Before we arrive at the hopeful and restorative promises of Joel 2:22–27, we must first pass through Joel 2:12–17.</p> <p>Before God speaks about <i>restoration, provision, and renewal</i>, He issues a clear and gracious invitation to return.</p> <p>This passage is not written to outsiders—it is written to <i>God's people</i>. It's not just a call to start knowing God, but a call to come back to Him fully.</p> <p>Even in the midst of judgment, famine, and devastation, God says something remarkable:</p>	

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“Yet even now...”

Even now—after failure, after compromise, after drifting—God’s mercy still makes room for return.

Connect Group Message:

RETURN TO THE LORD

Joel 2:12–17

1. “Return to Me with all your heart” (vv. 12–13)

Return to me with all your heart...

- God is calling us to give Him our WHOLE HEART.

God does not ask for partial repentance or half-hearted devotion. He calls His people back **with their whole heart**.

He wants **undivided hearts**.

Key truth:

You can be busy for God and still distant from God.

This call confronts us with an honest question:

- Is God first in *name* only—or first in reality?
- Have we given Him access to some areas, but not all?

Returning with our whole heart means:

- Our priorities
- Our decisions
- Our affections
- Our time
- Our obedience

And yet, this call is rooted not in fear, but in **who God is**:

“For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...”

We return because God is **good**, not because we are afraid.

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2. “Rend your hearts and not your garments” (v. 13)

Rend your hearts and not your garments...

- God looks at the heart, not the appearance.
- Does God have your heart? Do we have an appearance of godliness but not a heart that seeks after God?

In biblical times, tearing garments was a public sign of grief or repentance. But God says: *Don't just tear what people can see—tear what only I can see.*

God is not impressed by performance.
He is after **authentic transformation**.

God looks at the heart, not the appearance.

This forces a deeper question:

- Do we *look* surrendered but remain unchanged?
- Do we carry the language of faith without the posture of obedience?
- Is our repentance momentary, or is it reshaping our lives?

It's possible to:

- Sing the songs
- Know the language
- Show up consistently

...and still guard parts of our heart from God.

True repentance is not about *looking broken (rending your outward garments only)*—it's about being **open, honest, and yielded** before God (rending your heart).

Appearance may convince people, but only the heart moves God.

3. “Gather the people” (vv. 15–17)

Gather the people...

- All of us, no one left behind, no one missed; All of us returning and surrendering our hearts to the Lord as God's people **gathered**.
- Prioritise your personal time with God
- Prioritise your corporate time with God: Sundays and Connect Group
- Plan your world around this, not the other way around. Don't fit God into your life where you can. Fit everything else around God being first in your life.

This call to return is not only personal—it is **corporate**.

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God commands:

- Gather everyone
- Young and old
- Leaders and children
- Even those in life's most intimate moments

Why? Because **revival and renewal are never meant to be experienced in isolation.** God's restoration plan involves *a gathered people* who return together.

Practical application for us:

- **Prioritise your personal time with God**
Daily prayer, Scripture, repentance, and listening.
- **Prioritise your corporate time with God**
Sundays. Connect Groups. Gathering with God's people.
- **Plan your world around God, not God around your world**
Don't fit God into your life where it's convenient.
Build your life around God being **first**.

When God's people gather with surrendered hearts, heaven responds.

Closing Thought

Joel reminds us that **restoration always begins with return.**

Before God restores:

- The land
- The joy
- The provision

He restores **the heart**.

The promise of Joel 2:22–27 is powerful—but it is preceded by a people who choose to return fully, honestly, and together.

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. What does it practically look like to 'return to God with all your heart'? Where do you sense God inviting you to give Him fuller access—your priorities, time, decisions, or affections?

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2. Joel 2:13 says, 'Rend your hearts and not your garments.' In what ways can we sometimes focus on appearances rather than authentic heart change? How can we pursue authentic transformation instead of performance?
3. God calls all His people—every age and stage—to gather in His presence. Why do you think returning to God is both a personal and a corporate calling? How does gathering with others strengthen our walk with God?
4. The passage highlights God's character: gracious, merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love. How does remembering who God is change the way you respond to His call to return?
5. Go Question: As we return to God with whole hearts, who in your world might be waiting for an invitation to gather, return, or experience God's mercy? What step could you take this week to reach out or invite someone closer to Jesus?

Week 3: Connect week notes

Connect Week Notes	Week 3
Message Title:	God's Victory: The Great Reclaim
Message Date:	Sunday 1 st March 2026
Key Scriptures for this week: Joel 2:22-32 (NIV)	
<p>Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:</p> <p>Joel 2:22–32 NIV After the call to <i>return to the Lord</i>, God does not leave His people in a place of loss or shame. What follows repentance is not punishment—but victory.</p>	

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Joel 2:22–32 reveals the heart of God to reclaim, restore, and re-establish His people.

This is not partial restoration.
This is not survival.
This is a **GREAT RECLAIM.**

What the enemy devastated, God reverses.
What was barren, God causes to flourish.
What was stolen, God repays.
And what was powerless, God fills with His Spirit.

Connect Group Message:

1. The Reclaim of Flourishing and Fruitfulness (v. 22)

- ***The reclaim of flourishing and fruitfulness seen in verse 22***
 - What is God causing to flourish and bear fruit in your life that has been like a wilderness and barren in your life?

“Do not be afraid... for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green.”

God begins His reclaim by speaking to what was once lifeless.
The wilderness—dry, empty, stripped bare by locusts—is now **turning green again.**

This is a picture of **divine reversal.**

Where there was:

- barrenness
- lack
- exhaustion
- devastation

God declares **life, growth, and fruitfulness.**

This is not accidental growth—it is **intentional restoration by God.**

Personal application:

What areas of your life have felt like a wilderness?

- Spiritually dry?

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- Emotionally exhausted?
- Relationally empty?
- Financially depleted?

God's victory means He is able to cause *fruit to grow again* where you thought nothing could live.

What God reclaims, He does not merely restore to neutral—He restores to flourishing.

2. The Reclaim of Joy, Praise, and Worship (v. 23)

The reclaim of joy, praise and worship in verse 23

- Praise and worship on our lips is the sound of RECLAIM
 - Where is there complaining, sarcasm or cynicism on your lips? Let our hearts and mouths be filled with rejoicing and gladness

“Be glad... rejoice in the LORD your God...”

Before circumstances fully change, God restores **joy**.
Joy is one of the first signs that God's reclaim is underway.

Praise and worship on our lips is the **sound of reclaim**.

When God moves:

- Fear gives way to gladness
- Complaining gives way to gratitude
- Cynicism gives way to faith

Joy is not denial—it is declaration.
It says: *God is at work again*.

Heart check:

What has been coming out of our mouths?

- Complaining?
- Sarcasm?
- Negativity?
- Hopeless language?

God is reclaiming a people whose mouths are filled again with:

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- Praise
- Worship
- Thanksgiving
- Testimony

When joy returns, shame loses its grip.

3. The Reclaim of What Was Stolen (vv. 24–25)

The reclaim of what has been stolen in verses 24+25

- God is doing a work of repayment. What has been stolen in your life? We are believing in God for the return of anything stolen. Full and complete repayment for any and everything that has been lost.
 - Children
 - Finances
 - Businesses
 - Identity
 - Gender
 - Purity

“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten.”

This is one of the most powerful promises in Scripture.

God does not say, *“I will help you move on.”*
He says, **“I will repay.”**

This is a God who deals with **loss, theft, and injustice** directly.

The enemy may have taken years—but God redeems time.

This speaks of:

- Restoration with increase
- Healing with testimony
- Renewal with purpose

What has been stolen?

- Children who have wandered
- Finances lost through hardship or poor decisions

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- Businesses that collapsed
- Identity distorted by culture or trauma
- Purity stolen by abuse or sin
- Confusion around identity and worth

God's reclaim is **full and complete repayment**—not spiritually symbolic, but deeply personal.

God is not intimidated by how much was lost or how long it took.

And notice the outcome:

“You will have plenty... and never again will my people be shamed.”

God's victory removes **shame**, not just lack.

4. The Reclaim Empowered by the Holy Spirit (vv. 28–29)

Followed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on ALL people in verses 28+29

- God's spirit pours out on ALL PEOPLE
- Everyone FILLED with the Holy Spirit, empowered to walk into all that God is reclaiming in our lives.
- The enabling power of God at work to bring people to salvation that we see in verse 32

Restoration alone is not enough.

God does not just restore His people—He **empowers** them.

“I will pour out My Spirit on all people...”

This is the shift from **external restoration** to **internal transformation**.

The Spirit is poured out on:

- Sons and daughters
- Young and old
- Men and women
- Servants and leaders

No hierarchy. No exclusions.

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This is God reclaiming His people as a **Spirit-filled, Spirit-led community**.

The Holy Spirit is the **enabling power** to:

- Walk in restored identity
- Carry renewed vision
- Live boldly in obedience
- Step into purpose and calling

What God reclaims, He empowers to keep.

Salvation and Deliverance for All (v. 32)

The enabling power of God at work to bring people to salvation that we see in verse 32

“Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”

The ultimate victory of God’s reclaim is **salvation**.

Restored land matters.

Restored joy matters.

Restored years matter.

But restored **souls** matter most.

God’s reclaim extends outward:

- From individuals to families
- From families to communities
- From communities to nations

This is why the Spirit is poured out—so that people would be saved.

Closing Summary

Joel 2 shows us the full picture of God’s victory:

- Repentance leads to restoration
- Restoration leads to rejoicing
- Rejoicing leads to empowerment
- Empowerment leads to salvation

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This is not just God fixing what was broken—
This is God **reclaiming what always belonged to Him.**

This is the GREAT RECLAIM.

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

Please select questions below for your group discussion:

1. Where have you experienced “wilderness places” in your life—areas that have felt barren, depleted, or dry—and how might God be causing new life, fruitfulness, or hope to grow again?
2. What has been coming out of your mouth lately—complaining, cynicism, or praise? What might it look like for God to reclaim joy, gratitude, and worship in your speech?
3. What is something in your life that feels like it has been ‘eaten by locusts’—time, identity, opportunities, relationships—and how do you see God beginning a work of repayment or restoration?
4. In what area of your life do you most need the Holy Spirit’s empowerment right now—courage, clarity, purpose, obedience—and what might stepping into that empowerment look like this week?
5. Who in your world—family, friends, coworkers—needs to experience God’s reclaim in their life, and how can we pray for or reach out to them this week?
6. As a group, pray for those on your RECLAIM prayer cards.
7. Pray for boldness in reaching out.