

## Preparations for a Solemn Assembly in Your Household or House Church

Two weeks prior to the Solemn Assembly, prepare via Bible Study:

- Joel 1:13-15, 2:12-27
- Ezra 9-10
- Nehemiah 8-10
- 2nd Chronicles 15 (Asa' revival)
- 2nd Chronicles 34
- Psalm 51
- Take note of Jesus' reproofs of communal sin in Revelation 2-3 ("you have forsaken the love you had at first," "hold to false teaching," "you tolerate [sin]," "you have a reputation for being alive but are dead," "you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold.")
- Plus, schedule the time and place of the solemn assembly with your household and house church (make it special - handwritten or printed invitations)

One week prior to the Solemn Assembly, prepare via prayer and fasting:

- "Rend your heart and not your garment"
- "Cry out to the Lord"
- "Consecrate a fast" (perhaps one that starts 24 hours prior the solemn assembly and ends with a refreshing feast of repentance)
- Reconfirm the time and place of the solemn assembly with each member
- Since the solemn assembly ends in joyous celebration, arrange for food and drinks

During the Solemn Assembly with both your household and house church:

- Lead in Humility!
- Take ownership of the "state of the union"
- Express earnestness, eagerness, indignation, alarm, longing, zeal, readiness for justice about your personal responsibility for the communal dysfunction (sin)
- Share Joel 2 with the group and explain that each member - starting with you will:
  - Confess (via prayer if preferable) how one has hurt God and the group
  - Ask God for forgiveness
  - Ask the group for forgiveness
  - Recommit to God and group via prayer (Phil 1:27-2:5 is a great start for leaders' sharing about recommitment)
  - Since nothing happens in general (it only happens in specific), discuss exactly how the group will bear the fruit of repentance (Luke 3:7-14)
- Conclude with times of refreshing, song, celebration, and a feast!