SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 15

The Useless Vine: Fruitless Wood for the Fire

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 15:7

"and I set My face against them. Though they have come out of the fire, yet the fire will consume them. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I set My face against them."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 15

This short chapter asks me one hard question: what is my life good for if it bears no fruit? God is not after sturdy wood; He is after fruit, and only Jesus, the True Vine, can produce it in me. This week, stay connected to Him and let the fires you have survived turn you toward Him.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Ezekiel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Vine and the Forest

READ · EZEKIEL 15:1–2

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What comparison does God make in v2 between the vine and the other trees of the forest?

REFLECT

Why might God choose a vine — not an oak or a cedar — to picture His people (v2)?

REFLECT

What am I proud of in my spiritual life that might be more like "wood" than fruit?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask God in prayer to show you one place where He is looking for fruit in your life right now.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 15:7)

DAY 2 OF 5

Not Even a Peg

READ · EZEKIEL 15:3

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two things does v3 say no one can make from vine wood?

REFLECT

If a vine without fruit cannot even hold up a pot (v3), what does that say about a life that looks busy but bears no fruit?

REFLECT

Which fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23) is God growing in me, and which one is missing?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one quiet act of love or patience today that no one will praise you for.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 15:7)

DAY 3 OF 5

Charred at Both Ends

READ · EZEKIEL 15:4–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What has happened to the wood in v4, and what does v5 say about its usefulness before and after the fire?

REFLECT

What fire have I already been through — an arrest, an overdose, a loss — and did it change me or just scorch me (v4)?

REFLECT

How can a man who feels "charred" and worthless (v5) find hope in Christ instead of in his own repair work?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one fire you have survived, and next to it write one way God wants to use it to turn you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 15:7)

DAY 4 OF 5

Out of One Fire, Into Another

READ · EZEKIEL 15:6–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who does God say the vine wood stands for (v6), and what happens to those who came out of the fire (v7)?

REFLECT

Where am I in danger of walking out of one fire and right back into the same life that lit it (v7)?

REFLECT

God warned before He acted, "Then you will know that I am the LORD" (v7). What warnings is God giving me right now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one change you will make so that you do not walk back into the same fire, and tell your sponsor, mentor or a brother.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 15:7)

DAY 5 OF 5

Abide in the True Vine

READ · EZEKIEL 15:8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What reason does God give in v8 for making the land desolate?

REFLECT

“Acted unfaithfully” is doubled in the Hebrew — a pattern, not a slip (v8). Where do I see a pattern of broken faith in my own life?

REFLECT

Read John 15:1–6. What does it mean for me to abide in Jesus this week, in plain everyday terms?

RESPOND — TODAY

Set a daily time this week to read and pray, even ten minutes, and keep it as your way of staying connected to the Vine.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 15:7)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Israel trusted being God's vine instead of bearing fruit (v6). What 'privileges' are men in this group tempted to trust — church background, time served, years clean?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Why does surviving a fire so often make us feel safe instead of making us change (v7)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

What does fruit look like in the life of a man who abides in Christ, and where have you seen it in each other?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are the True Vine and I have no fruit without You, so keep me connected to You today as I...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 15:7

"and I set My face against them. Though they have come out of the fire, yet the fire will consume them. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I set My face against them."