SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 18

Sour Grapes: Every Soul Is Mine

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 18:31–32

"Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the Lord GOD. Therefore, repent and live."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 18

This week God takes away the excuse every one of us has used — 'it's my father's fault' — and puts something better in its place: an open door. Your past shaped you, but it does not own you. The God who has no pleasure in your death is calling you to turn and live.

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

No More Sour Grapes

READ · EZEKIEL 18:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was the proverb the people kept repeating (v2), and what does God say about every soul in v4?

REFLECT

What is your version of the sour-grapes proverb — the story you tell about why your sin is really someone else's fault?

REFLECT

God says, “All souls are Mine” (v4). How does it change things to know you answer to God directly, not as a link in your family's chain?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one thing you have blamed on your father, your neighborhood or your past, and tell God you are taking ownership of it today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 18:31–32)

DAY 2 OF 5

What a Righteous Man Looks Like

READ · EZEKIEL 18:5–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List the things the righteous man does and does not do in vv5–9. Which ones are about his worship, and which are about how he treats people?

REFLECT

The righteous man "gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with clothing" (v7). Who in your life right now needs what you have to give?

REFLECT

He "walks in My statutes" (v9) — his life shows his faith. Where does your faith show up in how you handle money, women and people weaker than you (vv6–8)?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one concrete act of the righteous man today — give, restore, or help someone who cannot pay you back.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 18:31–32)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Son Who Broke the Chain

READ · EZEKIEL 18:10–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the grandson do with his father's sins, according to v14, and what does God say about him in v17?

REFLECT

The grandson "observed all his father's sins" and chose differently (v14). Which patterns from your family do you need to see clearly so you can refuse them?

REFLECT

The violent son had a righteous father and still went his own way (vv10–13). What does that teach you about not relying on anyone else's faith — even a good father's?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one family pattern you want to end with you, and pray for the next generation by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 18:31–32)

DAY 4 OF 5

Turning Either Way

READ · EZEKIEL 18:19–29

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

According to vv21–22, what happens to the transgressions of the wicked man who turns? According to v24, what happens to the righteous man who turns away?

REFLECT

God says He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (v23). How does that change the way you picture God when you have failed again?

REFLECT

The people said, "The way of the Lord is not right" (v25). When have you accused God of being unfair to avoid looking at your own ways?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God, out loud, that your forgiven sins "will not be remembered against" you (v22), and ask Him to keep you turning toward Him every day.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 18:31–32)

DAY 5 OF 5

Repent and Live

READ · EZEKIEL 18:30–32

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three commands does God give in vv30–31, and what question does He ask?

REFLECT

God commands a new heart (v31) and also promises to give one (11:19; 36:26). How do His command and His gift meet in Jesus?

REFLECT

"For why will you die?" (v31) is a Father's plea. Which man in your life needs to hear that plea from you — not condemnation, but an invitation?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one thing you need to turn from today, and turn — not tomorrow. Then pray the memory verse back to God.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 18:31–32)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Why do you think the sour-grapes proverb was so popular (v2), and where do we hear it in our own day?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

How can a man take full responsibility for his sin (v20) without being crushed by it (vv22–23)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

What would it look like for our group to sound like v32 when one of us falls — a plea to turn and live instead of a sentence?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, my soul is Yours; I stop blaming my past and ask You for the new heart and new spirit only You can give…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 18:31–32

"Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the Lord GOD. Therefore, repent and live."