SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 20

For My Name's Sake: Rebellion, Mercy, the Rod

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 20:44

"Then you will know that I am the LORD when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your evil ways or according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 20

This week God tells a long, hard story of a people who kept rebelling — and a God who kept holding back for His name's sake. It asks you to stop coming to God with idols still in your heart, and to rest your hope not on your record but on His name.

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

Idols in the Waiting Room

READ · EZEKIEL 20:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who came to Ezekiel, why did they come (v1), and what was God's answer (v3)?

REFLECT

The elders wanted a word from God while keeping their idols (v3; compare 14:3). Where are you asking God for guidance while avoiding the sin He has already put His finger on?

REFLECT

God told Ezekiel to make them know the abominations of their fathers (v4). What does it take for you to see that you are not so different from the people you blame?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you ask God for anything today, confess the one thing you already know He wants you to deal with.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 20:44)

DAY 2 OF 5

For My Name's Sake

READ · EZEKIEL 20:5–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did God do for Israel in Egypt and the wilderness (vv5–6, 10–12), what did they do in return (vv8, 13, 16), and why did He spare them (vv9, 14, 17)?

REFLECT

God's first command was, "Cast away, each of you, the detestable things of his eyes" (v7). What do your eyes keep going back to that pulls your heart away?

REFLECT

Their "heart continually went after their idols" (v16). What does your heart drift toward when you're tired, lonely or bored?

RESPOND — TODAY

Get rid of one thing your eyes keep chasing — delete it, block it, throw it out — instead of trying to manage it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 20:44)

DAY 3 OF 5

Like Father, Like Son

READ · EZEKIEL 20:18–32

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did God tell the children in the wilderness (vv18–20)? What secret plan were the exiles making in v32?

REFLECT

God warned the children, "Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers" (v18), and they did anyway. Which of your father's ways are you still walking in without noticing?

REFLECT

"We will be like the nations" (v32) was a slow decision to blend in. Where do you feel the pull to just be like everybody else around you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask one brother this week to tell you honestly where he sees you blending in, and listen without defending yourself.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 20:44)

DAY 4 OF 5

Under the Rod

READ · EZEKIEL 20:33–44

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What will God do as King in vv33–38, and what will His people do on His holy mountain in vv40–44?

REFLECT

"I will make you pass under the rod" (v37) pictures a shepherd counting each sheep one by one. What would it look like to let Jesus examine you personally instead of hiding in the crowd?

REFLECT

God says His people will loathe themselves for their evil and then know Him as the One who dealt with them "not according to your evil ways" (vv43–44). How have you tasted both the shame of sin and the wonder of grace?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the memory verse and next to it the part of your record you are most ashamed of. Then thank God that He deals with you for His name's sake, through Jesus.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 20:44)

DAY 5 OF 5

Not Just a Story

READ · EZEKIEL 20:45–49

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What will the fire do to the forest of the south (v47), and what were people saying about Ezekiel (v49)?

REFLECT

People brushed off God's warning as "just speaking parables" (v49). Which warnings from God's Word have you been treating as just a story?

REFLECT

The fire would take the green tree and the dry (v47). How does that keep you from assuming you're safe because you're doing better than other men?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one warning from this week's reading and act on it today, then pray for a man you know who is still shrugging God off.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 20:44)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Why do you think God refused to answer the elders (v3) instead of giving them a word?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

God gave His people over to "statutes that were not good" (v25). Where have we seen men get exactly what they insisted on, and what did it cost them?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

How does God acting "for the sake of My name" (vv9, 14, 22, 44) give hope to a man coming out of prison whose record seems to decide his future?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, I don't want to come to You with idols in my heart, so show me what my eyes are chasing and help me cast it away…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 20:44

"Then you will know that I am the LORD when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your evil ways or according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD."