SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 22

No One in the Gap

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 22:30

"I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 22

This week God reads the charges against Jerusalem, and the list reaches into every home, court and pulpit. Under all of it is one quiet sin: forgetting God. Let Him search you honestly, and then ask Him to make you a man who stands in the gap for the people He has given you.

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 Bloody City

READ · EZEKIEL 22:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two things does Jerusalem do that make her guilty and defiled (vv3–4), and how will the nations respond (vv4–5)?

REFLECT

Jerusalem had God's Word, prophets and temple, yet she became "the bloody city" (v2). What has God given you that raises the bar for how you live?

REFLECT

God says Jerusalem "brought your day near" by her own choices (v4). Where have your own choices brought a hard day closer, and what is God asking you to do with that now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask God to show you one thing you have done that you have never really owned. Name it to Him plainly, and thank Jesus that His blood covers it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 22:30)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Root Sin

READ · EZEKIEL 22:6–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Make a list of the groups of people who were wronged in verses 6–12. Then find the last thing God says in verse 12.

REFLECT

Every sin on the list grew from "you have forgotten Me" (v12). When did forgetting God begin in your worst season — what pushed Him to the edges?

REFLECT

God asks, "Can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong" (v14) when He acts. What are you trusting your own strength to carry right now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Set a time today to sit with God for ten minutes before anything else gets your attention, and keep that appointment tomorrow too.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 22:30)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Furnace

READ · EZEKIEL 22:17–22

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What metals are named in verses 18 and 20, and what does God say He will do with them?

REFLECT

God calls His people dross — the leftover slag (v18). What in your life feels like dross, worth nothing, and what does God see that you don't?

REFLECT

A refiner only fires the furnace when there is silver in the ore (vv20–22; compare Mal 3:3). How has a hard season burned something off you that needed to go?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one painful thing you are going through. Under it, write what you pray God will burn away — and what you pray He will keep.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 22:30)

DAY 4 OF 5

Whitewash

READ · EZEKIEL 22:23–29

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Name the five groups in verses 25–29 and the picture or sin attached to each one.

REFLECT

The prophets “smeared whitewash” and said “Thus says the Lord GOD” when God had not spoken (v28). When have you told a struggling man what he wanted to hear instead of the truth?

REFLECT

The priests stopped teaching the difference between holy and common (v26). Where have you blurred that line in what you watch, say or allow in your home?

RESPOND — TODAY

Have one honest conversation this week where you speak the truth in love, even if it costs you some comfort.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 22:30)

DAY 5 OF 5

Stand in the Gap

READ · EZEKIEL 22:30–31

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was God looking for in verse 30, and what was the result when He found no one (v31)?

REFLECT

God searched for one man who would "stand in the gap" so that He would not destroy the land (v30). Whose names come to mind when you think about who needs someone praying for them?

REFLECT

Jesus is the Man who stood in the gap for you and always lives to intercede (Heb 7:25). How does knowing He prays for you change the way you pray for others?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write a prayer list of five names — family, church, men in recovery or prison — and pray it every day this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 22:30)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Which item on Jerusalem's charge sheet (vv6–12) hits closest to home for men like us, and why?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

What does it look like in daily life to "forget" God even while still believing in Him (v12)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Who is one person this group can stand in the gap for together this week, and how (v30)?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, I don't want to forget You, so make me a man who stands in the gap for...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 22:30

"I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one."