SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 3

The Watchman: Eat the Word, Then Warn

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 3:17

"Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 3

God fed Ezekiel His Word, steadied his face, held him when he was bitter, and made him a watchman for his people. This week, take in God's Word for yourself — and ask Him who He has put on your wall to watch for.

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

Eat the Scroll

READ · EZEKIEL 3:1–3

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did God tell Ezekiel to do with the scroll, and how did it taste (vv. 1–3)?

REFLECT

God said, "feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll" (v. 3). How is eating God's Word different from just reading it or hearing about it?

REFLECT

The scroll was full of hard words, yet it was "sweet as honey" (v. 3). When has a hard truth from God turned out to be good for you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one verse from today's reading, write it on a card, and read it at every meal today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 3:17)

DAY 2 OF 5

A Face Like Flint

READ · EZEKIEL 3:4–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Why would the house of Israel not listen to Ezekiel, according to verse 7? What did God do about it (vv. 8–9)?

REFLECT

Israel's real quarrel was with God, not with Ezekiel (v. 7). Where have you treated someone's warning as a personal attack when it was really God speaking?

REFLECT

Before Ezekiel spoke to anyone, God told him to "take into your heart all My words" (v. 10). What needs to sink into your heart before you speak to your family or friends?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask God for a steady face in one hard place you will be today — and for a soft heart toward the people there.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 3:17)

DAY 3 OF 5

Bitter, but Held

READ · EZEKIEL 3:12–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did Ezekiel feel as he went, and what was true of God's hand at the same time (v. 14)?

REFLECT

Ezekiel went "embittered in the rage of my spirit" (v. 14). What are you angry or bitter about right now — with the system, your family, yourself or God?

REFLECT

Ezekiel sat seven days among the exiles before saying a word (v. 15). Who might God want you to simply sit with this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell God honestly what you are bitter about. Then thank Him that His hand is strong on you anyway.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 3:17)

DAY 4 OF 5

The Watchman

READ · EZEKIEL 3:16–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List the four cases God describes in verses 18–21. What happens to the watchman in each one?

REFLECT

God says that if the watchman stays silent, "his blood I will require at your hand" (v. 18). Who in your life is heading toward danger — and what have you said?

REFLECT

A righteous man can turn away (v. 20). Where are you tempted to think your clean time or good record means you can stop watching yourself?

RESPOND — TODAY

Reach out to one man today with a plain, loving warning or check-in. Leave his response with God.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 3:17)

DAY 5 OF 5

Glory, Then Silence

READ · EZEKIEL 3:22–27

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Ezekiel see on the plain, and what limits did God put on him afterward (vv. 23–26)?

REFLECT

Ezekiel fell on his face again before the same glory (v. 23). How often do you take time to look at God before you look at your problems?

REFLECT

God said, “when I speak to you, I will open your mouth” (v. 27). Where do you need to wait for God’s word instead of speaking your own?

RESPOND — TODAY

Practice holding your tongue today in one conversation where you would normally jump in. Pray first, then speak.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 3:17)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

What makes it hard for men like us to warn a brother who is drifting (vv. 18–19)? How can we make it easier for each other?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Ezekiel obeyed while bitter and angry (v. 14). What does that teach us about feelings and faithfulness?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Who are you a watchman for right now — at home, at work, in the program or on the unit (v. 17)?

MY PRAYER

Lord, make me a faithful watchman, never silent when love must speak, and help me warn...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 3:17

"Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me."