SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 31

The Fallen Cedar: Pride Topples the Tallest Tree

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 31:9

"I made it beautiful with the multitude of its branches, And all the trees of Eden, which were in the garden of God, were jealous of it."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 31

This week God asks you the question He asked Pharaoh: whom are you like? He points to the tallest tree in the forest and then to its stump. Let Him show you where your heart has grown high, and let Him make you low enough to be safe in His hands.

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

Whom Are You Like?

READ · EZEKIEL 31:1–2

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

To whom does God send this message, and what exact question does He tell Ezekiel to ask (v2)?

REFLECT

When you size yourself up, who do you usually compare yourself with — men doing worse than you, or men who fell? What does that comparison do to you (v2)?

REFLECT

Why do you think God started with a question instead of a sentence of judgment (v2)? What question might He be asking you right now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask a brother you trust to tell you honestly where he sees pride in you, and just listen without defending yourself.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 31:9)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Tallest Tree

READ · EZEKIEL 31:3–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List everything that made the cedar great in vv3–8. Then underline who says "I made it beautiful" in v9.

REFLECT

The cedar grew because "The waters made it grow" (v4). What waters — people, chances, mercies — made you grow that you did not provide yourself?

REFLECT

Nations lived under the cedar's shade (v6). Who lives under your shade — family, crew, men who look up to you — and what kind of shelter are you giving them?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write a thank-you list of five people or gifts God used to grow you, and thank Him for each one by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 31:9)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Haughty Heart

READ · EZEKIEL 31:10–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What reason does God give for cutting the cedar down (v10), and why does He say He did it (v14)?

REFLECT

God did not condemn the cedar for being tall but for a heart "haughty in its loftiness" (v10). How can you tell when a gift has turned into pride in you?

REFLECT

God made the fallen tree a lesson for every other tree (v14). Whose fall have you watched, and what did God want you to learn from it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Humble yourself on purpose today: do one hidden act of service that nobody will thank you for.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 31:9)

DAY 4 OF 5

When the Giant Falls

READ · EZEKIEL 31:15–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did the nations, Lebanon and the trees of Eden respond when the cedar went down to Sheol (vv15–16)? Who went down with it (v17)?

REFLECT

Those who lived under the cedar's shade went down with it (v17). Whose shade have you sheltered under — a crew, a dealer, a powerful man — and where was it taking you?

REFLECT

What does it mean to you that the tallest tree and the smallest shrub end in the same grave (vv15–17)? How does that change what you chase?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray for the men still standing under a falling tree you once stood under, and if you can, reach out to one of them.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 31:9)

DAY 5 OF 5

So Is Pharaoh

READ · EZEKIEL 31:18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What question does God repeat in v18, and what does He say will happen to Pharaoh and all his hordes?

REFLECT

God turned the whole parable on Pharaoh in one line (v18). If God told your story as a parable, what would the warning be — and what would the hope be?

REFLECT

Ezekiel says God brings down the high tree (v18; see 17:24). Where are you facing a power that looks too tall for you, and how does this truth give you courage?

RESPOND — TODAY

Memorize this week's verse (31:9) and pray it back to God: You made me whatever I am — keep my heart low.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 31:9)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

God told Pharaoh to learn from Assyria's fall (vv2–3). What keeps men from learning from other men's falls until they fall themselves?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The cedar was beautiful because God made it beautiful (v9). How can a man enjoy real success without his heart becoming haughty (v10)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Big trees offer shade, and when they fall they take others with them (v17). What kind of shelter does the church offer that a crew or a powerful man cannot?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, every good thing in my life is a tree You planted and watered, so keep my heart low and…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 31:9

"I made it beautiful with the multitude of its branches, And all the trees of Eden, which were in the garden of God, were jealous of it."