SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 34

The Shepherds and the Good Shepherd

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 34:16

"I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 34

This week the Lord shows you two kinds of shepherds — men who feed themselves, and the God who comes looking for His sheep. He asks you to let Him find you and bind up what is broken, and then to care for the people He has put in your hands the way He cares for 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

Feeding or Feeding Off

READ · EZEKIEL 34:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List everything verse 4 says the shepherds did not do, and what verse 4 says they did instead.

REFLECT

Who looks to you for leadership — at home, at work, in a group, on the yard — and how are you feeding them rather than using them (v2)?

REFLECT

When have you been on the receiving end of a leader who ruled "with force and with severity" (v4)? How did it shape you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Choose one person under your care and do one of the verse 4 duties for him today — strengthen, heal, bind up, bring back, or seek.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 34:16)

DAY 2 OF 5

God Takes It Personally

READ · EZEKIEL 34:7–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How many times in verses 7–10 does God call the people “My flock” or “My sheep”? What does He say He will do to the shepherds (v10)?

REFLECT

What changes in the way you treat people when you remember they are God’s sheep and not yours (v10)?

REFLECT

Where do you need to take seriously that God will “demand My sheep” from the hand of those who lead them (v10)?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray by name for each person God has given you to lead, and tell Him you know they belong to Him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 34:16)

DAY 3 OF 5

I Myself Will Search

READ · EZEKIEL 34:11–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Write down every "I will" God says in verses 11–16. Which of them answer the failures listed in verse 4?

REFLECT

Where in your life do you feel lost, scattered, broken, or sick right now (v16)? Which of those words fits you best this week?

REFLECT

Jesus said He came 'to seek and to save that which was lost' (Luke 19:10). How has He come looking for you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell God plainly where you are broken and ask Him to bind it up. Then thank Jesus, the good Shepherd, that He came Himself.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 34:16)

DAY 4 OF 5

Sheep Among Sheep

READ · EZEKIEL 34:17–22

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the strong sheep do to the pasture and the water in verses 18–19, and how did they treat the weak in verse 21?

REFLECT

In what ways can you be a "fat sheep" — taking the best, crowding out others, muddying the water for weaker men (vv18–21)?

REFLECT

Who is a lean, pushed-aside sheep in your group or unit that you could stand beside instead of shove past (v21)?

RESPOND — TODAY

Make one deliberate move today to make room for someone weaker — give up a seat, a turn, a portion, or your time.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 34:16)

DAY 5 OF 5

A Covenant of Peace

READ · EZEKIEL 34:23–31

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List the blessings of the covenant of peace in verses 25–29. What does God call His people in verse 31?

REFLECT

What yoke has God broken in your life, or what yoke are you still asking Him to break (v27)?

REFLECT

What would it look like for you to "live securely" so that "no one will make them afraid" (v28) — what fear would go?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read verse 31 out loud with your name in it. Then thank God for one specific way He has been your Shepherd this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 34:16)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

What is the difference between a leader who serves people and one who uses them, and which way do you lean under pressure (34:2–4)?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Why does it matter that God does not just hire better shepherds but comes Himself (34:11–15)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

How can our group make sure the weaker men are fed and not trampled (34:18–22)?

MY PRAYER

Lord, You are my Shepherd who came looking for me; bind up what is broken in me, and help me care for …

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 34:16

"I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment."