SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 37

Dry Bones Live: One Stick, One Shepherd

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 37:14

"I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 37

This week God takes you into a valley of very dry bones and asks the question you may have stopped asking: can these live? Ezekiel 37 is for every man who has said “our hope has perished.” Read it slowly, and let the Lord GOD who raises the dead speak to the dry places in 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

Can These Bones Live?

READ · EZEKIEL 37:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What words does Ezekiel use to describe the bones in verses 1–2, and what exactly does God promise to do to them in verses 5–6?

REFLECT

Ezekiel answered God's question with "O Lord GOD, You know" (v3). What situation in your life would you honestly answer that way right now?

REFLECT

God told Ezekiel to preach to bones (v4). Who is the person you have quietly written off as too far gone, and what would it look like to speak God's Word to him anyway?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the driest place in your life on one line. Under it, write "O Lord GOD, You know," and pray it out loud.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 37:14)

DAY 2 OF 5

No Breath in Them

READ · EZEKIEL 37:7-10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List what happened when Ezekiel prophesied the first time (vv7–8) and what happened the second time (vv9–10). What was still missing after the first?

REFLECT

The bodies looked complete "but there was no breath in them" (v8). In what ways have you cleaned up the outside — sobriety, church, the right words — while still needing God to breathe life inside?

REFLECT

Ezekiel obeyed twice, even when it looked foolish (vv7, 10). Where is God asking you to keep doing the right thing when you cannot see any results yet?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray for God's Spirit by name over yourself and one other man today, using the words of verse 9: "Come from the four winds, O breath."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 37:14)

DAY 3 OF 5

I Will Open Your Graves

READ · EZEKIEL 37:11–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three things did the people say about themselves in verse 11, and what does God say "I will" do in verses 12–14?

REFLECT

Israel said, "We are completely cut off" (v11). When have you felt that way, and what lie about God was hiding inside that feeling?

REFLECT

God calls these hopeless people "My people" twice (vv12–13). How does it change the way you see yourself to know that God still claims you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write out verse 14 on a card and carry it with you. Read it each time hopelessness talks to you today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 37:14)

DAY 4 OF 5

One in His Hand

READ · EZEKIEL 37:15–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was written on each of the two sticks (v16), and what does God say He will do with them (vv19, 22)?

REFLECT

Judah and Israel had been divided for centuries. What broken relationship in your life — family, a brother in the faith, your own children — needs to be placed in God's hand to be made one?

REFLECT

God ends the division by cleansing them from their idols (v23). What idol has caused division in your home or your friendships?

RESPOND — TODAY

Take one step toward a person you are divided from today — a call, a letter, or a prayer for him by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 37:14)

DAY 5 OF 5

One Shepherd, His Sanctuary Forever

READ · EZEKIEL 37:24–28

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How many times does the word “forever” appear in verses 25–28, and what is promised to last forever each time?

REFLECT

God promises “one shepherd” over His people (v24). Which other “shepherds” — habits, people, voices — have you been following instead of Jesus?

REFLECT

The chapter ends with God’s sanctuary in the midst of His people (vv26–28). What would change in your week if you lived as though God were truly in the middle of it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank Jesus, your one Shepherd, for one specific way He has led you this week, and tell another man about it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 37:14)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Which of the five days hit you hardest, and why that one?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Ezekiel spoke the Word and then called on the Breath (vv4, 9). Which one do you tend to skip — the Word or prayer for the Spirit — and what would it take to do both?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Who in our group, or outside it, needs us to stand with him in his valley this week, and what will we actually do?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, You know whether these bones can live, so breathe on me and on…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 37:14

"I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it."