SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 4

The Siege Acted Out: Bearing the Iniquity

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 4:6

"When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 4

Ezekiel preached with his whole body — a brick, an iron plate, a bed and a ration of bread. This week, let God show you the real weight of sin, the things you lean on that will break, and the Savior who carried the iniquity all the way.

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

Jerusalem on a Brick

READ · EZEKIEL 4:1–3

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Ezekiel build around the brick, and what did he set between himself and the city (vv. 1–3)?

REFLECT

The exiles were sure Jerusalem would stand, and God showed them it would fall (v. 3). What have you been sure would hold you up that God may be taking away?

REFLECT

The iron plate showed God would not step in to rescue the city. How can losing a false hope be an act of God's mercy?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one false hope you have been holding. Hand it to God in prayer today, out loud.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 4:6)

DAY 2 OF 5

Bearing the Iniquity

READ · EZEKIEL 4:4–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How long did Ezekiel lie on each side, and whose iniquity did each side stand for (vv. 4–6)?

REFLECT

God measured the iniquity in years — "a day for each year" (v. 6). Where have you been treating your sin as light or small?

REFLECT

Ezekiel's days were counted, not endless (vv. 5–6, 8). How does it help to know God sets limits even on His discipline?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one sin you have called small. Confess it by name, and thank Jesus that He bore it (Isa 53:6).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 4:6)

DAY 3 OF 5

Siege Bread

READ · EZEKIEL 4:9–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What went into Ezekiel's bread, and how much food and water did he get each day (vv. 9–11)?

REFLECT

Six grains in one pot is what people eat when the storehouse is nearly empty (v. 9). Where has sin left you living on scraps when God offered more?

REFLECT

The bread was baked "in their sight" (v. 12). How has your life been a sign to the people watching you — good or bad?

RESPOND — TODAY

Skip one comfort today (a snack, a drink, a show) and use that time to pray for someone in a hard place.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 4:6)

DAY 4 OF 5

Ah, Lord GOD!

READ · EZEKIEL 4:13–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Ezekiel object to, what had he guarded all his life, and how did God answer (vv. 14–15)?

REFLECT

Ezekiel told God plainly, "Ah, Lord GOD!" (v. 14). What honest objection or complaint have you been hiding from God?

REFLECT

God lessened the hard thing but did not remove it (v. 15). Where do you need grace to obey even when God doesn't take the hard thing away?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell God one real objection today, honestly. Then tell Him you will still obey.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 4:6)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Staff of Bread Broken

READ · EZEKIEL 4:16–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did God say He would break in Jerusalem, and how would the people eat and drink (v. 16)?

REFLECT

People leaned on bread, their city and their temple, and they all broke (v. 16). What have you leaned on — a substance, a person, money, a hustle — that broke under you?

REFLECT

The people would "waste away in their iniquity" (v. 17). Where do you see sin slowly wasting something away in your life right now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down what you are leaning on today. Ask God to be your staff, and tell one brother what you wrote.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 4:6)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Ezekiel lay on his side bearing a nation's iniquity (vv. 4–6). How does that point us to what Jesus did on the cross?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Why do you think God chose to act out this message instead of just saying it (vv. 1–3, 12)? What does that teach us about how we live in front of others?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

What would it look like for our group to stop leaning on broken staffs together (v. 16)?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, show me the true weight of my sin, and break every staff I lean on that isn't You, especially…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 4:6

"When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year."