SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 44

The Shut Gate and the Faithful Priests

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 44:28

"And it shall be with regard to an inheritance for them, that I am their inheritance; and you shall give them no possession in Israel—I am their possession."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 44

This week God shows me that nearness to Him follows faithfulness, and that He Himself is the best reward He can give. Some of us have fallen and are living with the consequences; some of us are being asked to stay faithful in a dark season. Either way, God is still giving work to do, and He is still offering Himself.

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

The Gate the King Came Through

READ · EZEKIEL 44:1–3

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Why was the east gate shut, and what was the prince allowed to do there (vv2–3)?

REFLECT

The gate was shut because the LORD had entered by it and would never leave again (v2). What difference does it make to me that God has come to stay, not just visit?

REFLECT

The prince sat in the gate to eat bread before the LORD (v3). When do I simply sit and enjoy fellowship with God instead of rushing through my time with Him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Eat one meal today slowly and thank God through it, as a meal before the LORD.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 44:28)

DAY 2 OF 5

Mark Well

READ · EZEKIEL 44:4–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three things did God tell Ezekiel to do in verse 5, and what had Israel done with God's holy things (vv7–8)?

REFLECT

Israel had "not kept charge of My holy things yourselves" (v8). What has God given me to guard, my walk with Him, my family, my word, that I have handed off to someone else or to nobody?

REFLECT

God cares whether a heart is 'uncircumcised,' closed off to Him (v7). Where is my heart closed to God right now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Take back one responsibility God gave you that you have let slide, and do the first step today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 44:28)

DAY 3 OF 5

Mercy With Consequences

READ · EZEKIEL 44:10–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What had the Levites done (vv10, 12), what could they no longer do (v13), and what were they still given to do (vv11, 14)?

REFLECT

The Levites "became a stumbling block of iniquity to the house of Israel" (v12). Who is watching my life, and where could my compromise make them stumble?

REFLECT

God still gave these men real work to do (v14). If I am living with the consequences of past sin, how can I serve faithfully where God has placed me now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God for one place He still lets you serve, and do that service today with your whole heart.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 44:28)

DAY 4 OF 5

Faithful in the Dark

READ · EZEKIEL 44:15–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the sons of Zadok do when Israel went astray, and what does God let them do (vv15–16)?

REFLECT

The sons of Zadok kept charge when everyone else drifted (v15). What does staying faithful look like for me in the season I'm in right now?

REFLECT

Their reward was to come near to God and minister to Him first (v15). Do I serve God first, or do I mostly serve people and tasks?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you help anyone today, spend time ministering to God in worship and thanks.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 44:28)

DAY 5 OF 5

God Is Their Inheritance

READ · EZEKIEL 44:17–31

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What were the priests to teach the people (v23), and what did God say about their inheritance (v28)?

REFLECT

The priests were to help people "discern between the unclean and the clean" (v23). What have I called harmless that God may call unclean?

REFLECT

The priests had no land, only God (v28). If I lost everything else, house, car, job, even family, would God be enough for me?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read Psalm 16:5 and pray it back to God, naming one thing you are learning to hold loosely.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 44:28)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Why do you think God let the Levites who went astray keep serving but not at the altar (44:10–14), and what does that teach about forgiveness and trust?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

What is one way you can teach the difference between holy and common to the men around you (44:23) without becoming self-righteous?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Many men leave prison or rehab with nothing. How have you found God to be your portion (44:28) when other things were gone?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, You alone came through that gate and You are my inheritance, so make me faithful when others drift and help me…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 44:28

"And it shall be with regard to an inheritance for them, that I am their inheritance; and you shall give them no possession in Israel—I am their possession."