SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 47

The River from the Sanctuary: Everything Will Live

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 47:12

"By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 47

This week God shows you a river that starts as a trickle at His house and ends up healing the Dead Sea. He is inviting you out past your depth, into water where you can't stand on your own and have to be carried. No life is too salty for this river — and no outsider is too far out for His welcome.

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

Out Past Your Depth

READ · EZEKIEL 47:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where does the water start, and how deep is it at each thousand cubits (vv1–5)?

REFLECT

Ankle-deep water lets a man stand on his own (v3). Where are you keeping God at a depth you can still control?

REFLECT

The guide asks, "Son of man, have you seen this?" (v6). What is God doing around you right now that you have been walking past?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one step deeper — a habit of prayer, a hard conversation, an honest confession — and take it today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 47:12)

DAY 2 OF 5

Everything Will Live

READ · EZEKIEL 47:7–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where do the waters go, and what happens to the sea and the creatures in it (vv8–10)?

REFLECT

The Dead Sea, where nothing lived, fills with “very many fish” (v9). What part of your life have you written off as dead water?

REFLECT

Fishermen spread their nets where nothing used to live (v10). Who might God use you to reach in a place you thought was hopeless?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray by name for one man you've given up on, asking God to send His river into his life.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 47:12)

DAY 3 OF 5

Salt or Fruit

READ · EZEKIEL 47:11–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What stays salt, and what grows on the banks of the river (vv11–12)?

REFLECT

The swamps and marshes "will be left for salt" (v11), right next to the river. What keeps a man close to the water but unchanged by it?

REFLECT

The trees bear every month "because their water flows from the sanctuary" (v12). What are your roots drinking from these days?

RESPOND — TODAY

Look at what fills your mind each day — shows, music, talk — and trade one of them this week for time in God's Word.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 47:12)

DAY 4 OF 5

The Land God Swore

READ · EZEKIEL 47:13–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How is the land divided among the tribes, and why does God say they receive it (vv13–14)?

REFLECT

Each tribe receives "each one equally with the other" (v14), not by rank or record. How does that speak to a man who feels he has less to bring than others?

REFLECT

God bases the inheritance on His oath to the forefathers (v14). Which promise of God are you leaning on right now, and why do you trust it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one promise of God from Scripture and carry it with you this week; read it every time you doubt.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 47:12)

DAY 5 OF 5

Room for the Outsider

READ · EZEKIEL 47:21–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who besides the tribes of Israel receives an inheritance, and how are they to be treated (vv22–23)?

REFLECT

The alien is to be treated "as the native-born among the sons of Israel" (v22). When have you been the outsider, and who made room for you?

REFLECT

Who is the newcomer in your group, unit or neighborhood that you could treat as family instead of a guest on probation?

RESPOND — TODAY

Go out of your way this week to welcome one new or overlooked man — learn his name, share a meal or sit with him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 47:12)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Why do you think the river keeps getting deeper even though no other streams join it (vv3–5)?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

What does it say about God that the river reaches the Dead Sea, the hardest place on the map (vv8–9)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

How should the welcome given to the alien in vv22–23 shape the way our group treats new men?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, lead me out past my depth and let Your river flow into the dead places in me, especially…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 47:12

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