SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 9

Marked Before the Sword

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 9:4

"The LORD said to him, Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 9

This week God shows you a city under judgment, and a Man in linen walking its streets to mark everyone who grieves over sin. The question for you is not how bad the world is, but whether your own heart still breaks over what breaks God's. Read slowly, be honest, and remember that in Christ the mark is the cross.

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

He Sees, and He Sends

READ · EZEKIEL 9:1–2

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who comes from the upper gate, what does each carry, and where do they stand (v2)?

REFLECT

The elders said the LORD does not see (8:12). How does God's loud call in v1 answer that, and where have you acted as if He wasn't watching?

REFLECT

Among six men with weapons walks one man with a writing case (v2). What does it tell you about God that mercy shows up before the sword moves?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one thing you have done this month as if God did not see it. Bring it to Him in plain words today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 9:4)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Mark on the Forehead

READ · EZEKIEL 9:3–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where does the glory move in v3, and who exactly gets marked in v4?

REFLECT

The marked were not the strongest or most religious, but men who "sigh and groan over all the abominations" (v4). What would it look like for you to grieve over sin instead of getting used to it?

REFLECT

Start with your own sin before the city's. Which of your sins have you stopped grieving over, and why?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray Psalm-style for five minutes: name the sins around you and in you that grieve God, and ask Him for a soft heart.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 9:4)

DAY 3 OF 5

Start From My Sanctuary

READ · EZEKIEL 9:5–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where does God tell the executioners to start, and who do they reach first (v6)?

REFLECT

Being near the temple put the elders first in line, not safest (v6). What religious things are you tempted to trust instead of a changed heart?

REFLECT

God said, “do not touch any man on whom is the mark” (v6). How does that promise steady you when you read hard passages like this one?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you judge anyone else today, take ten minutes to examine your own heart before God and write what you find.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 9:4)

DAY 4 OF 5

On His Face

READ · EZEKIEL 9:8–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Ezekiel do and say when he is left alone (v8), and how does God answer (vv9–10)?

REFLECT

Ezekiel preached judgment but did not enjoy it; he fell on his face and begged for the remnant (v8). How do you usually feel when someone who rejected the truth suffers for it?

REFLECT

God quoted the people's own words back to them (v9). What words have you said about God, out loud or in your head, that you need to take back?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one man who is far from God right now. Get on your knees, if you can, and pray for him by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 9:4)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Work Is Done

READ · EZEKIEL 9:11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does the man in linen report, and how does the chapter end differently than you might expect?

REFLECT

The chapter ends not with the slain but with the report, "I have done just as You have commanded me" (v11). What does it mean to you that Christ finishes what He starts in keeping His own?

REFLECT

If you feel lost in a crowd, a cell or a broken home, how does this verse speak to the fear that God has overlooked you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write a short thank-you prayer to Jesus for knowing your name and keeping you as His.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 9:4)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Why do you think God's first order in Ezekiel 9 was to mark, not to strike (vv4–6)?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

What is the difference between grieving over sin and simply being angry at sinners (v4)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

How can our group practice Ezekiel's posture of telling the truth plainly and then praying hard for the people who reject it (v8)?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, You see everything in Your house and in my heart, so give me a heart that grieves over sin, and…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 9:4

"The LORD said to him, Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst."