SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 17

Two Eagles, a Vine and a Tender Shoot

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 17:24

"All the trees of the field will know that I am the LORD; I bring down the high tree, exalt the low tree, dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will perform it."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 17

This week God tells a story about a vine that had everything it needed and still reached for something else. He asks you to look at where He has planted you, to keep your word the way He keeps His, and to trust Him as the One who makes dry wood flourish.

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

Planted Low, but Alive

READ · EZEKIEL 17:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the first great eagle take away, where did he carry it, and what did he plant in its place (vv3–6)?

REFLECT

Nebuchadnezzar made Judah "a low, spreading vine" — humbled, but alive and well watered (v6). Where has God allowed you to be brought low while still keeping you alive and cared for?

REFLECT

The vine's branches were "turned toward him" (v6). What does it look like, in your daily habits, for your life to stay turned toward the One who planted you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down three ways God is watering you right now, in the place where you are, and thank Him for each one by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 17:24)

DAY 2 OF 5

Reaching for Another Eagle

READ · EZEKIEL 17:7–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

According to v8, what did the vine already have before it bent its roots toward the second eagle?

REFLECT

The second eagle did nothing; the vine did all the reaching (v7). What "Egypt" do you reach for when life gets hard — an old connection, money, a quick fix, a lie?

REFLECT

God asks twice, "Will it thrive?" (vv9–10). How has reaching for something other than God dried you up in the past?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one place you have been sending envoys to Egypt, tell God about it honestly, and tell one trusted brother this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 17:24)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Riddle Explained

READ · EZEKIEL 17:11–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What were the terms of the covenant the king of Babylon made with Zedekiah, and what was it meant to do for the kingdom (vv13–14)?

REFLECT

The covenant kept Judah low "that it might continue" (v14). Where is the humble road God has put in front of you actually the road of life?

REFLECT

Zedekiah sent for horses and many troops (v15). What does trusting your own strength look like for you, and what does it cost?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray through v15 — "Can he indeed break the covenant and escape?" — and ask God to show you any way you are trying to get around His word instead of walking through it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 17:24)

DAY 4 OF 5

My Oath Which He Despised

READ · EZEKIEL 17:16–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Whose oath and whose covenant does God say Zedekiah broke in v19?

REFLECT

Zedekiah swore to a pagan king, yet God called it "My oath" (v19). Which promises you have made — to your wife, your children, your sponsor, the men you walk with — does God hear as made before Him?

REFLECT

Pharaoh's mighty army could not help Zedekiah (v17). What do you lean on that cannot save you when the siege comes?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one promise you have let slide and take one concrete step today to keep it, even if it costs you (Ps 15:4).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 17:24)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Tender Shoot

READ · EZEKIEL 17:22–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does God Himself take, where does He plant it, and what does it become (vv22–23)?

REFLECT

God's King begins as "a tender one" and becomes a stately cedar (vv22–23). How does Jesus fit that picture, and what does it mean that birds of every kind nest under Him?

REFLECT

God makes "the dry tree flourish" (v24). Where do you feel like dead, dry wood, and what would it look like to trust Him there?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write out the memory verse and pray it back to God, asking Him to bring down what is proud in you and make the dry places bloom.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 17:24)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The vine had good soil and abundant water yet reached for Egypt (vv7–8). What makes a man who has enough still reach for more?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

God held Zedekiah to an oath made to an unbeliever (vv16–19). How should that shape the way we keep our word at work, at home and inside?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Zedekiah's word failed, but God says, “I have spoken, and I will perform it” (v24). Which promise of God are you holding onto this week?

MY PRAYER

Lord, You keep every word You speak, so help me keep mine, and forgive me for the times I reached for Egypt instead of You…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 17:24

"All the trees of the field will know that I am the LORD; I bring down the high tree, exalt the low tree, dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will perform it."