SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 23

Two Sisters: Oholah and Oholibah

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 23:35

"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back, bear now the punishment of your lewdness and your harlotries.'"

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 23

This week's chapter is blunt, and God means it to be. It shows what it looks like when His people chase other lovers — power, money, pleasure, anything but Him — and how those lovers turn into masters. Read it honestly, guard your eyes, and remember that the God who calls this betrayal is the same God who keeps calling His people home.

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

They Became Mine

READ · EZEKIEL 23:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who are the two sisters, what are their names, and which cities do they stand for (v4)?

REFLECT

God says "they became Mine" even though they had been unfaithful from their youth (vv3–4). How does it hit you that God took you as His own knowing your whole story?

REFLECT

Jerusalem had God's own house in her midst and still strayed. What spiritual privileges do you have that you are tempted to take for granted?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God out loud for one specific way He claimed you when you were far from Him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 23:35)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Lover Who Turns

READ · EZEKIEL 23:5–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What attracted Oholah to the Assyrians (vv5–6), and what did those same Assyrians finally do to her (vv9–10)?

REFLECT

Samaria trusted Assyria's power instead of God, and the power she trusted destroyed her (v9). What have you leaned on for strength or comfort that eventually turned on you?

REFLECT

Guzik says there was nothing spiritual in the attraction — it was all about what looked impressive. What looks impressive to you right now that God has not given you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name the one thing you most often run to instead of God when life gets hard, and tell a trusted brother about it this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 23:35)

DAY 3 OF 5

It Starts with the Eyes

READ · EZEKIEL 23:11–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Trace the steps in verses 14–17: what did Oholibah see, what did she do next, and how did she feel afterward?

REFLECT

“When she saw them she lusted after them and sent messengers to them” (v16). Where in your life does looking lead to wanting, and wanting lead to reaching?

REFLECT

Oholibah watched her sister fall and did worse (v11). What man’s fall have you watched, and what is God trying to teach you through it before you repeat it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Take one concrete step today to guard your eyes — a filter, a different route, a phone left in another room — and ask Jesus for a clean heart.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 23:35)

DAY 4 OF 5

Forgotten and Cast Behind

READ · EZEKIEL 23:22–35

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does God say He will do with Oholibah's former lovers (v22), and what reason does He give in verse 35?

REFLECT

God says, "I will set My jealousy against you" (v25). How is God's jealousy for you different from the jealousy of a controlling person?

REFLECT

Verse 35 names the root: "you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back." What does it look like in your week when you put God behind your back?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you make any plan tomorrow, turn to God first and give Him the day. Write down what you hear and what you choose.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 23:35)

DAY 5 OF 5

So You Will Know Him

READ · EZEKIEL 23:36–49

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the people do "on the same day" in verses 38–39, and what is God's final goal in verse 49?

REFLECT

They sinned in the dark and then walked into God's house as if nothing happened (v39). Where are you tempted to keep a secret life alongside your church life?

REFLECT

God's goal is "you will know that I am the Lord GOD" (v49). What would change this week if you lived as if God alone is your Lord?

RESPOND — TODAY

Bring one hidden thing into the light — confess it to God and to a brother you trust, and receive Christ's forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 23:35)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Why do you think God chose the picture of a broken marriage to describe idolatry, and what does that say about how He sees His people (v4)?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

What are the "lovers" men in recovery or coming out of prison are most tempted to run back to, and how can this group help each other stand (v19)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

How does Jesus as the faithful Husband who gave Himself for His bride (Eph 5:25) give hope to a man who has been unfaithful to God (v35)?

MY PRAYER

Lord GOD, forgive me for putting You behind my back, and guard my eyes and heart from…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 23:35

"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back, bear now the punishment of your lewdness and your harlotries.'"