SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 8

Behind the Wall: Abominations in God's House

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 8:4

"And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the appearance which I saw in the plain."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 8

This week God takes Ezekiel on a tour of His own house and opens every door, even the ones behind the wall. It is not comfortable, but it is mercy: God shows us the truth because He has not given up on us. Let Him walk through the rooms of your life with you.

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

Sitting Before the Word

READ · EZEKIEL 8:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where is Ezekiel and who is sitting with him in verse 1? What does he see still present in the temple in verse 4?

REFLECT

The elders of Judah came and sat before God's prophet (v1). Where and when do you sit under God's word each week, and who sits there with you?

REFLECT

Even with idols in His house, "the glory of the God of Israel was there" (v4). What does it tell you about God that He was still there, still showing the truth?

RESPOND — TODAY

Set a time and place this week to sit under God's word with another man, and put it on your calendar today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 8:4)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Idol at the Door

READ · EZEKIEL 8:5–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where is the idol of jealousy standing (v5), and what does God say these abominations are doing to Him (v6)?

REFLECT

God says idols make Him "far from My sanctuary" (v6). What have you allowed at the door of your heart that pushes God out?

REFLECT

This idol had been cleaned out once before and crept back. What sin have you dealt with before that is quietly returning?

RESPOND — TODAY

Remove one physical thing today, an app, a bottle, a picture, a number, that stands at the door for an idol.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 8:4)

DAY 3 OF 5

Behind the Wall

READ · EZEKIEL 8:7–13

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Ezekiel have to do to see the elders (v8)? What is carved on the walls, and what do the elders say in verse 12?

REFLECT

The elders said, “The LORD does not see us” (v12). What do you do 'in the dark' as if God does not see?

REFLECT

Jaazaniah came from a godly family and still stood with the idolaters (v11). How has a good background ever made you feel safe when you were not?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one trusted brother about one 'back room' in your life, and ask him to pray with you about it this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 8:4)

DAY 4 OF 5

Tears for the Wrong Thing

READ · EZEKIEL 8:14-15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where are the women sitting, and what are they doing (v14)? What does God say Ezekiel will still see (v15)?

REFLECT

These women gave their tears and devotion to a dead god. What gets your deepest emotion and passion, and does it deserve it?

REFLECT

What have you grieved losing that God may have been taking out of your life on purpose?

RESPOND — TODAY

Bring one real grief to God in prayer today, and ask Him to be the One you weep before.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 8:4)

DAY 5 OF 5

Turn Around

READ · EZEKIEL 8:16–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where are the twenty-five men standing, which way are they facing, and what are they bowing toward (v16)?

REFLECT

They bowed "with their backs to the temple of the LORD" (v16). In what part of your life have you turned your back on God while still standing close to His house?

REFLECT

God asks, "Is it too light a thing …?" (v17). What compromise have you called small that God may call serious?

RESPOND — TODAY

Literally turn around today: name the direction you have been facing, and pray a short prayer turning your face back toward the Lord Jesus.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 8:4)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

What did God show you behind the wall this week, and who did you let into that room with you?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Why do you think sin escalated in this chapter from hidden to open? Where have you seen that pattern in your own life?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

How can we as a group be like the elders who sat before the word (v1), and not the ones who hid in the dark (v12)?

MY PRAYER

LORD, You see what is done in the dark, so dig through the walls I have built and...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 8:4

"And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the appearance which I saw in the plain."