

Lesson Title: The Prophet Ezekiel

Scripture Focus: Ezekiel 36:26-27

The Lesson in Context

Ezekiel knew Judah's transformation would take more than just renewed determination to "do better next time." The people were so steeped in idolatry, living in blatant rebellion to God's Word, no simple reformation was possible. They needed a spiritual transformation. Little did Ezekiel know at the time, but his vision of God's glory as he stood by the Canal Chebar provided an important clue to God's solution to this perplexing problem. As God of all the earth (not just of the Promised Land), God could not be contained in any earthly Temple.

God revealed through Ezekiel that He never intended to dwell in a single Tabernacle or Temple. God wanted to deal with sin on an individual level; God wanted to indwell each individual through His Spirit. God's solution is found in Ezekiel 36:26-27: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

Group Discussion

1. What are some of the drawbacks to our ability to travel to so many places so easily? How does that contribute to people's sense of "lostness" in our world?
2. Why do we find it easier to blame others than to take responsibility for our own actions?
3. Where is the most unlikely place you have experienced the glory of God? What did that teach you about God's sovereignty?
4. What can we do this week to glorify and honor God among our world?
5. Since the outpouring of God's Spirit at Pentecost, individual believers have become the temple where God's presence resides. What are the greatest benefits of God's presence in your life?

My Prayer for the Upcoming Week

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?
