

OT Prophets - Ezekiel

Main Point: The glorious God departs from His people in Jerusalem, but promises a better place for the sake of His glory.

Large Group Intro Question - Can you name one story or passage from the book of Ezekiel?

Small Group Question 1 - How is God's relationship with His old covenant people Israel different from His relationship with those who follow Jesus?

Ezekiel tells the story of God leaving His people in Jerusalem and abandoning the temple for destruction. This was necessary because of the sinful hearts of His people. But in the new covenant that we enjoy because of Jesus, our hearts have been replaced and so God can promise that He will never leave or forsake us. There will never be a day that your sin causes God to abandon you if you are truly a child of God.

Small Group Question 2 - What sorts of 'idols' might you be tempted to put in your heart in the place of God?

Most of us don't have a problem with carving false gods to bow down and worship. But we do bring all sorts of things into our hearts and give them a place that only God should have. We prioritize things in our lives like relationships, possessions, people's opinions, grades, money, success, and much more. If we are not careful, we may elevate these things to a position in our lives where God has to take a back seat. This is like putting carved idols into His temple for worship.

Teaching Break

Small Group Question 3 - How does the vision of the valley of dry bones teach us about the good news of Jesus?

Ephesians 2 tells us we were dead in our sins before we were made alive in Christ. Like this valley of dry bones, we had no spiritual life of our own and could do nothing to raise ourselves to life. But through Christ, the Spirit of God takes our dry, dead bones and gives us life. The life that was destroyed in us by sin is given to us new through the breath (the Spirit) of God.

Small Group Question 4 - What are some ways that sin has affected our world that you think will be different when the glory of God dwells with His people?

Ezekiel gives us images of a flourishing world where God's glory dwells with His people. It describes the flourishing of life around a river and an amazing temple where the glory of God is worshiped by His people. Our sin destroyed the paradise that God made for us and it broke our fellowship with Him. But because of Jesus, we will live in a new world that is not broken by sin and we will be able to be with God in His glory, no longer separated from Him by sin.

Answer to Remember

2 Peter 1:21

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.