



BASED ON EZEKIEL 4:1-5:17

# WHEN GOD MAKES YOUR LIFE THE SERMON



A EZEKIEL  
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE  
FOR AGES 14-17



# How to Use This Book

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This is an adventure where you step into Ezekiel's calling—a prophet asked to live out shocking, uncomfortable object lessons so God's people will finally pay attention.

## **How it works:**

- Start at Section 1.
- Read each section carefully.
- At the end of each section, choose what YOU would do.
- Follow the directions to the next section number.
- Keep going until you reach an ending... then try other paths.

Some paths lean into comfort and reputation, others into radical obedience, lament, and wrestling honestly with God.

## **Tips:**

- Read aloud and let the group vote on choices, or use with pairs/small groups.
- Remind students: these prophetic actions are symbolic acts in a specific time and context, not commands for us to copy.
- Keep a Bible open to Ezekiel 4–5 as you read.

**Note:**

These chapters include famine, siege, and severe judgment imagery. Use with care, and be ready to pause and process emotions.

# A Hard Calling in a Hard Time

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## Section 1

You are Ezekiel, a priest living in exile by the Kebar River in Babylon. Your people have been taken from Jerusalem. Temple life is shattered. Many still hope things will somehow go back to “*normal*.”

Then the heavens open. You see visions of God. You encounter His glory and His voice. You are called to be a prophet to a stubborn, rebellious people.

God tells you: “*Whether they listen or fail to listen, they will know that a prophet has been among them.*”

You’re not just going to speak sermons. You’re going to live them—through strange, uncomfortable, even humiliating symbolic acts.

One day, God gives a specific instruction:

*“Take a clay tablet; draw the city of Jerusalem on it. Lay siege to it—build ramps, set up camps, battering rams. Then lie on your side in front of it for days, bearing the sin of the people.”*

This will be a public sign of the siege and judgment coming to Jerusalem.

### **What do you do?**

- If you push back immediately, saying, “*God, this is too weird. There must be another way,*” go to **Section 2**.
- If you obey outwardly but with a hard, resentful heart, go to **Section 3**.
- If you obey and also bring your honest feelings to God, go to **Section 4**.

# There Must Be Another Way

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## Section 2

You hesitate. *“God, can’t I just preach a normal sermon? Do I really have to act this out on the ground like some kind of street performer?”*

You imagine how people will mock you. You think of your priestly dignity. You wonder if this is worth it. You delay. Days go by. There’s no siege tablet. No performance. No message.

In the end, God uses other means and other voices. You fade into the crowd of exiles—a priest who saw the glory of God but refused the cost of being His messenger.

### **END 1 – “The Calling You Sidestepped”**

- You avoided embarrassment, but you also missed the chance to be part of what God was doing. Some callings only make sense on the other side of obedience.

# Obedience on the Outside, Resentment on the Inside

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## Section 3

You do what God says. You draw Jerusalem on the clay tablet, set up toy siege ramps, place little iron pans as walls. You lie on your side, as instructed.

People walk by, snicker, shake their heads. *“There goes Ezekiel, the drama prophet.”*

You stay in position, but inside you simmer: *“They don’t listen. I look foolish. Why is this my life?”*

Your body obeys, but your heart hardens—toward your audience, and quietly, toward God.

You complete the days. The sign is given. But the bitterness you nurture eats away at your joy and intimacy with God.

### **END 2 – “The Resentful Prophet”**

- You technically obeyed, but missed the chance to grow closer to God through the hardship. Obedience without trust easily curdles into resentment.

# Strange Obedience, Honest Heart

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## Section 4

You take a breath. *“Okay, Lord. I will do what You ask. But I’m scared. I’m embarrassed. Please be with me in this.”*

You draw Jerusalem on the tablet. You set up a tiny siege. You lie on your side in front of it day after day, as God commands—first for the sins of Israel, then for Judah.

People pass by. Some mock. Some stare. Some are disturbed.

At night, you pour out your heart to God: *“This is hard. They don’t listen. But You are righteous. Use this somehow.”* Your body is the sermon, but your prayer life deepens.

After this, God gives you another strange instruction: you must eat rationed food, symbolizing the scarcity in the siege. You’re to bake bread over human excrement as fuel—another shock to show how unclean and desperate things will become.

You're horrified.

### **What do you do now?**

- If you refuse this specific detail and argue with God, go to **Section 5**.
- If you say nothing and obey even this, while feeling defiled, go to **Section 6**.

# Lord, Please... Not That

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## Section 5

You cry out: *“Not so, Sovereign Lord! I have never defiled myself like that. From my youth until now, I’ve kept the food laws. I can’t do this.”*

You’re not being stubborn for comfort’s sake; you are deeply concerned about ceremonial uncleanness and faithfulness to God’s law.

God listens.

He adjusts the command: instead of human excrement, you may use cow dung as fuel. Still humiliating, still a powerful symbol—but not a direct violation of your lifelong obedience in this area.

You realize something important: God is holy and serious about judgment—but He also listens when His servants wrestle honestly with Him.

You go on to act out the sign with the modified fuel. From here, another call comes—hair and sword.

Go to **Section 7**.

# Silent, Numb Obedience

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## Section 6

You feel sick. You don't want to argue. You think God will be angry if you speak up. So you say nothing.

You obey mechanically, even when it deeply violates your sense of what is clean and right. You shut down your emotions. You tell yourself, *"I'm just a tool. My feelings don't matter."*

The object lesson is delivered. But inside, you disconnect from your own soul—and quietly from God, whom you now fear more than you love.

### **END 3 – “The Numb Instrument”**

- God desires willing servants, not hollow tools. When you assume He doesn't care about your conscience or distress, you miss His Father-heart, even as you carry His messages.

# Hair, Fire, and Warning

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## Section 7

After the siege acts and rationed food, God gives another symbol:

*“Take a sharp sword and use it as a barber’s razor to shave your head and beard. Then divide the hair into three parts. Burn a third in the city model, strike a third with the sword, and scatter a third to the wind. Keep a few strands in your garment, then throw some of those into the fire as well.”*

Each portion represents what will happen to the people of Jerusalem: some burned by famine and plague, some killed by the sword, some scattered into exile, with only a small remnant preserved.

This is intense. It involves your own body again—shaving your hair and beard, a big deal in your culture.

### What do you do?

- If you refuse to involve your own body again, saying, “Haven’t I given enough?”, go to **Section 8**.
- If you accept that your life and appearance are part of the message and obey, go to **Section 9**.

# Drawing the Line

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## Section 8

*You tell God, “I’ll speak. I’ll write. I’ll warn. But I can’t keep using my own body and appearance as props. It’s too much. I feel like I don’t exist apart from the message anymore.”*

You stop short. You preach words, but you don’t shave, don’t burn, don’t scatter hair. The sign is missing.

God’s message still goes forward through other means. But you keep a part of yourself closed off from His call.

### **END 4 – “The Boundary You Drew”**

- Boundaries can be wise. But if you draw them mainly to protect your image and comfort, you may miss the specific way God wanted to use your life as a sign—without seeing yet what He might have done through it.

# Becoming the Sign

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## Section 9

You surrender. *“Lord, my appearance, my reputation, even my hair—it’s Yours.”*

You shave your head and beard with the sword. People stare. Priests don’t usually look like this. Neighbors whisper.

You carefully weigh out the hair: one third burned on the little model of Jerusalem, one third struck with the sword, one third scattered in the wind. You tuck a small few into the folds of your robe, then throw some of even those into the fire—because even the remnant will face refining.

As you obey, you feel both sorrow and clarity. This is not a game; judgment is coming. But the God who warns is also the God who, later in the book, promises new hearts, a new spirit, and a restored people.

You are living between severe warning and future hope.

## How do you carry this tension?

- If you become mostly a voice of doom, forgetting the hope, go to **Section 10**.
- If you hold on to both God's holiness and His future mercy, go to **Section 11**.

# Stuck in Doom Mode

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## Section 10

Every message you preach, every act you perform, you highlight judgment, anger, and destruction. You feel the weight of God’s words and the stubbornness of the people, and slowly, your heart tilts toward despair.

You start to see the people only as targets of wrath, not as potential recipients of mercy. You forget the promises God will later give about new hearts, a new Spirit, a restored land.

The warning is true—but incomplete.

### **END 5 – “The Prophet Who Forgot Hope”**

- When you preach judgment without remembering God’s heart to heal and restore, you misrepresent Him, even when your words are technically accurate.

# Holding Judgment and Hope Together

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## Section 11

Holding Judgment and Hope Together

You live out God's hard object lessons. You see visions of glory and visions of disaster. But you also listen when God speaks of a future:

- A new heart and new spirit.
- A restored people.
- A river of life flowing from the temple.

You become a prophet who can say, *"God is against your sin—and still for your ultimate good if you return to Him."* Your strange actions prepare people not only to understand why judgment comes, but also to believe that hope is still possible on the other side.

### **END 6 – "The Life That Became a Bridge"**

- Your costly obedience and honest wrestling help your generation—and future ones—see both the seriousness of sin and the stubborn mercy of God.

# All the Endings

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Check them off, then read the wisdom that goes with each one.

- **END 1 – “The Calling You Sidestepped”**
  - Saying “no” to uncomfortable assignments can keep you safe—but also small in terms of what God might have done through you.
- **END 2 – “The Resentful Prophet”**
  - Long-term obedience without honest relationship often turns into bitterness, not maturity.
- **END 3 – “The Numb Instrument”**
  - God wants servants who speak to Him, not tools that silently endure anything with a shut-down heart.
- **END 4 – “The Boundary You Drew”**
  - Boundaries can be wise, but sometimes fear of looking foolish blocks the very sign God wants your life to be.
- **END 5 – “The Prophet Who Forgot Hope”**
  - Truth without hope misrepresents God as much as hope without truth does.
- **END 6 – “The Life That Became a Bridge”**
  - Letting God use your life as a sign—while holding on to His future hope—helps others see His holiness and His heart.

# Five Truths You Can Carry

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- **TRUTH 1: Sometimes God uses our lives as visual sermons.**
  - Ezekiel’s actions look extreme, but they matched the spiritual emergency of his time.
- **TRUTH 2: You can wrestle with God about the details.**
  - When Ezekiel objected to the fuel for his bread, God listened and adjusted. Honest prayer matters.
- **TRUTH 3: Obedience may cost your comfort and reputation.**
  - Lying on your side, shaving your head, acting out siege scenes—none of that looked “normal,” but it was faithful.
- **TRUTH 4: Judgment is real—but not the last word.**
  - Ezekiel 4–5 are heavy, but the book moves toward promises of restoration.
- **TRUTH 5: Your calling might feel weird or small, but it fits into a bigger story.**
  - Ezekiel’s strange tasks became Scripture that still speaks; your quiet obedience can ripple farther than you see.

# Discussion Questions

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**Use these questions after going through at least one path:**

1. Which ending did you hit first, and what does it say about how you tend to respond to uncomfortable assignments—avoid, obey resentfully, talk it out with God, or lean into both warning and hope?
2. How do you feel about God asking Ezekiel to do such strange, public actions? Does it seem unfair, wise, over-the-top? Why?
3. Have you ever felt like God was asking you to do something that might make you look weird (stand up for someone, confess something, change direction publicly)? What did you do?
4. How does Ezekiel’s honest pushback about uncleanness encourage you in your own prayer life?
5. What are the dangers of preaching or living only “judgment” or only “hope”? Where do you see each imbalance today?
6. Where might God be inviting you to let your life (not just your words) become a sign of who He is?

# What Are YOUR “Living Sermon” Moments?

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Think about places where your choices preach louder than your words.

1. **In friendships** (how you handle gossip, conflict, loyalty):
2. **Online** (what you post, like, share, or refuse to participate in):
3. **At home** (how you respond to parents/siblings, stress, responsibilities):
4. **In your inner life** (what you do with conviction, doubt, and temptation when no one sees):

## Now ask:

- If someone only watched my life and never heard my words, what “*sermon*” would they think God is preaching through me right now?

# Prayer

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Lord God,

Thank You for telling us Ezekiel's story, even the strange and heavy parts. Thank You for showing that You care enough about Your people to send warnings they can't ignore.

Sometimes Your call feels uncomfortable or confusing. Sometimes I worry about what people will think more than what You think. Help me trust You enough to obey, and honest enough to talk to You about what scares or confuses me.

Make my life a faithful 'living sermon'—not about my greatness, but about Your holiness, Your justice, and Your stubborn mercy. Keep me from preaching only doom or only comfort. Teach me to carry both warning and hope, like Ezekiel did.

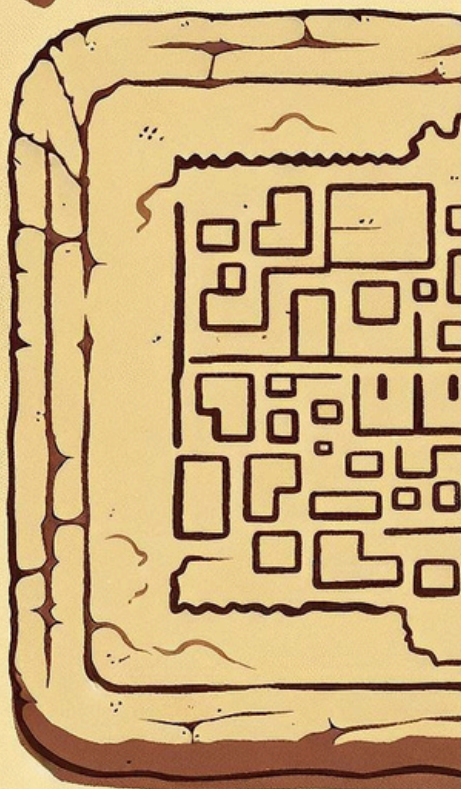
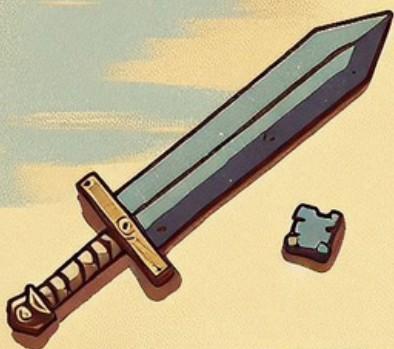
Use my ordinary choices as signs that point people toward You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



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Step into the world of a prophet asked to act out strange, uncomfortable object lessons so God's people will finally pay attention. Ezekiel's everyday choices become a living message about judgment, rebellion, and a God who still refuses to give up on His people.

Inside, you'll:

- Walk through some dramatic prophetic signs and wrestle with why God would ask for such costly obedience
- Explore multiple endings that show what happens when you avoid your calling
- Discover key truths about holiness, honesty with God, boundaries, and what it means for your life

**Scripture basis:**

Ezekiel 4-5

**Recommended age:**

14-17

**“I will give them  
an undivided heart and  
put a new spirit in them.”**

Ezekiel 11:19