



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

*Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People*

*Module 5: The Message of the Prophets*

*Lesson 2: God's Warning For Israel—Ezekiel 1-3*

### ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Ezekiel 2 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

*How is this God's story?*

*How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?*

*How is this the world's story?*

### ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Word. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

#### **GOD'S STORY**

*What can you tell about Ezekiel's relationship with God?*

- The book opens with God revealing to Ezekiel the vision of His glory. The Lord trusted him enough to share this.
- As Ezekiel heard from God, he fell on his face. This is a common response throughout the Bible by people who find themselves before the Lord in a concentrated way. Even angels often begin their declarations by saying "Do not be afraid" for such a reason.

*What is the message God is trying to tell the people through Ezekiel?*

- The Lord is at work even when His people aren't and in control even when His people are in chaos.
- During one of the worst eras in terms of conditions for Israel, God was going to do something mighty through those who were willing to let it start in them.

## OUR STORY

*How would you describe your awareness of what is happening in the spiritual realm?*

- There are some moments that we sense a greater spiritual meaning in something that on the surface appears ordinary.
- Seeing things beyond a human view can be done in spirit or in truth. At times we can gain a picture of the things of heaven by remembering what is said of it through the Bible.

*What role do you feel you play in helping those around you to pay closer attention to the kingdom of God?*

- Authentic ministry is less about you being in the spotlight and more about you being a spotlight operator who directs everyone's attention to God.

*Ezekiel had the scroll completely spread out before him before he consumed it. In what ways are you still learning about God?*

- There are other examples of people consuming God's word, including Jeremiah (Jeremiah 15:16) and John the disciple (Revelation 10:9-10).
- God's Word is intended to become a part of us. This is His way of giving us something tangible to chew on through our relationship with Him, much like the manna given to Israel during the Exodus.

## OTHERS' STORY

*Where can you take steps of faith and obedience in response to what God wants to do in the lives of others?*

- When others are losing faith in everything they once believed in, you can be the one who shows them that Christ is able to renew what matters.
- Jesus can make anyone and anything a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

*Which approach have you taken with your relationship with God—making it personal, or making it private?*

- Biblically speaking, there really is no such thing as a private faith. It is to be intensely personal with the intent of sharing it with others.
- When we make God's presence clear to others out of our own relationship with Him, we show them every life matters... including their own.

*Is there anyone in your life that you need to forgive and/or reconcile with?*

## THE WORLD'S STORY

*What do you think God specifically wants you to do for the world?*

- Peace is a gift given to God's people that He intends for us to share. We're to be the ones who bring His peace to the world.
- The Lord shows us what it means to go the extra mile, love our enemies, forgive those who persecute us and turn the other cheek.

*What ways has God called you to serve?*

- There is a fine line between sharing your relationship with others and telling them how to live their lives.

*What are some kingdom things you're a part of that others can easily join into?*

- We can invite anyone to be a part of God's work on earth, even if they have yet to develop an intentional relationship with him. Certain service projects, mission trips and more are easy on-ramps for people to join into.

## PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

*By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept  
when we remembered Zion.*

*There on the poplars  
we hung our harps,  
for there our captors asked us for songs,  
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;  
they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*

*How can we sing the songs of the LORD  
while in a foreign land?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
may my right hand forget its skill.*

*May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth  
if I do not remember you,  
if I do not consider Jerusalem  
my highest joy.*

*Remember, LORD, what the Edomites did  
on the day Jerusalem fell.*

*"Tear it down," they cried,  
"tear it down to its foundations!"  
Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,  
happy is the one who repays you  
according to what you have done to us.  
Happy is the one who seizes your infants  
and dashes them against the rocks.*

(Psalm 137)

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

You're likely well aware of an area of your life or character that needs to change. It's also likely that you may not have felt a whole lot of progress in certain areas like this because you put off change. Overcoming our current patterns can be a challenge, especially in areas we develop routines in. You may need to take the following steps to move forward:

- Write down a specific short-term or long-term goal.
- Make your goal measurable, even if it's just to you.
- Find others who will journey toward the goal with you.
- Celebrate any success you have.

Pray over this opportunity to find the things God wants you to most work on. Should you struggle or fail, don't let yourself take on the attitude "I tried, so I'm done." Instead, create space to change by committing to a goal and starting on it right away. This type of practice will help you become less inclined to whine when God puts something large in front of you that he says you're capable of accomplishing.

## BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

***Daniel 9***

***Mark 11***

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above Scriptures. In the context of Ezekiel 1-3, consider the following questions:

***How do I feel when God uses my life for something that others may not respond well to?***

***What are some of the hard things God is asking me to do to specifically reveal him to others?***

Consider other passages you might know related to Ezekiel 1-3 and read them this week, journaling as you go.