

09/25

# HOME GROUP GUIDE

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

### **LISTEN**

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passages(s)



### **REFLECT**

Prayerfully answer the questions below



### **DISCUSS**

Meet with your group to discuss



### **RESPOND**

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

## **BACKGROUND:**

Ezekiel's prophetic ministry began at the age of thirty, the year he would have been installed as a priest in the temple. But because he had been taken into captivity by the Babylonians five years prior (cf. 2 Kings 24:8-17), he was precluded from accessing the temple back in Jerusalem. In Chapter 1, Ezekiel sees "the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord" seated on a mobile throne (Ezekiel 1:28). This vision was jarring, as it meant God's presence had left the temple. Because of the sin and sacrilege of the Israelites, God removed his glory from their midst and, in turn, judgment was coming (Ezekiel 9:9-10).

Yet the story is not without hope. Though his presence had left the temple, God was never confined by walls or national borders. God does not abandon his people. Rather, he enters exile with them. Similarly, to be a Christian in the world today is to be in occupied territory. We live in a culture that discourages and even discriminates against our faith. But God is nearby, and His kingdom extends over the whole earth.

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## **OPEN:**

1. Have you ever been in a culture foreign to your own? What was it like? How did it make you feel?

## **REFLECT:**

2. Read Ezekiel 9:3-8. What is happening here? What about this scene causes the prophet to despair (v.8)? How can you relate to the way he feels in this moment?

3. Read Ezekiel 10:9-19. What is significant about this vision of God? What does this unique depiction communicate about his character?

4. Read Ezekiel 11:16-21. What promises are given in this passage? How are they fulfilled? When it seems as though evil is on the rise, how can we find encouragement in these passages?

## **APPLY:**

5. In 1880, Abraham Kuyper famously declared, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" Do you find this concept easy or difficult to believe? What ideas or experiences influence your answer?

6. What does Ezekiel's vision teach us about God's sovereign rule? How can we apply this lesson in the here and now?

7. How have you seen the promises of Ezekiel 11:19-20 fulfilled in your own life? How can this encourage you moving forward?

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