

LIFE IN CHRIST

I have good news. God does not wish that any would perish, but rather find life in Him. This message echoes throughout all of scripture. Through the book of Ezekiel, it seems like there is an overwhelming amount of perishing in response to the people's wickedness. The people were content in their worldly, sinful ways and would therefore suffer the consequences. Tucked in the midst of the sin, judgment and punishment is a repeated statement in Ezekiel 18. "For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live." (v32) In His holiness, God must punish sin, but his desire is repentance. Life. He longs to see us turn from our way and live. This is the same message and hope that Jesus proclaimed. The people were still struggling in their sin, but Jesus spoke often of eternal life being found in Him. He said that those who believe will have eternal life. Peter said Jesus had the words of eternal life. Jesus said he would give eternal life to his sheep. Our only hope for heaven and eternal life is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Ezekiel 16-18; John 6

Ezekiel 19-21; Psalm 84; John 7

Ezekiel 22-24; Psalm 134; John 8

Ezekiel 25-27; Psalm 85; John 9

Ezekiel 28-30; John 10

Every week, you'll see the same five content questions. Use them as a guide as you read the scriptures. Pray for consistency in your Bible reading.

1. Who are the main characters in this text and is there anyone you can relate to?
2. Is there anything from this text that we are to do (obey, believe, heed or follow)?
3. What do you learn about God in these chapters and how has that changed what you believe about Him?
4. What do these passages reveal about human nature, sin and our need for God?

5. What's the Good News found in this text?

Every week, you'll see five unique application questions. Use them to help live out what you're learning in scripture. Pray for life transformation.

1. When are you tempted to overlook or downplay sin? Do you think God does?
2. Is there anyone you know who has rejected God's grace? Spend time praying for a softened and open heart.
3. When taking an inventory of your life, does the evidence point to living for your own glory? Or does it point to living for God's glory? What evidence is most convincing?
4. How has God recently provided for you? Do you believe that only Jesus satisfies?
5. When has God used suffering and difficulty in your life for His glory?

The world offers many counterfeits. Satan wants you to believe that hope and purpose are found in worldly things, but beware! Hear Jesus' words in John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." In Jesus, we not only have life, but we have it in abundance. That is good news!