

# 2

## Leader Guide

### When You Had No Idea How Bad It Was

*October 9, 2022*

**Main Passage: Ezekiel 3:1-15**

#### Theological Theme

Ezekiel spoke God's truth to the people who rebelled against the Lord and were taken captive as a result. God warned that the people He wanted Ezekiel to speak to wouldn't listen, but he was to obey anyway.

#### Introduction

- ❓ Why do you think the health and wellness industry is so huge?
- ❓ Why is it helpful to receive advice from someone in a situation that is like yours when seeking to improve your health or wellness? How is this true in other situations as well?

#### 1. Taking in the Word (Ezekiel 3:1-4)

Ezekiel was a prophet to the community of Israelites in captivity and the recipient of God's words. The vision was of a scroll filled on both sides being offered to Ezekiel. As he prepared to speak God's words to the people, Ezekiel needed to take them in himself.

- ❓ How is it different for you to think about using God's Word as "food" instead of mere information?
- ❓ How have you seen the truth that we are more effective sharing the Word when we have taken it in as a feast and been changed by it?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to do differently to find strength in God's Word over other things?

#### 2. Strong for the Call (Ezekiel 3:5-11)

God reaffirmed His call on Ezekiel to be His prophet to the people and told him to go and speak the message given to him. This is also the call of God for Christians today. We are to speak His Word to the people in our lives. Those we encounter should hear from us about who God is and what He wants them to know.

- ❓ How might we describe people living in "exile" today? What do they share with the Israelites in Ezekiel's time?
- ❓ Have you ever tried to share with someone who was resistant to hearing the truth as Ezekiel did? Describe that experience.
- ❓ Application: How does living in community help you share the message of truth as you are called to?

### 3. Overwhelmed (Ezekiel 3:12-15)

After issuing a difficult assignment and warning about its likely reception, Ezekiel needed to be reminded of who was giving the instructions and who he served. Reminding Ezekiel of the vision he had received already boosted his faith and stressed the power of God. It is important to have strong faith when God instructs you to do something tough and unpopular.

- ❓ What about God inspires the most faith and confidence in you?
- ❓ When have you felt the power of the Lord on you, and what difference did it make in your obedience?
- ❓ Application: When was the last time you were overwhelmed by the hand of God in your life? How did it change you?

### Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

\*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

### Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

### Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).