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Group Guide

Posture of Prayer

February 2, 2025

Main Passage: Ezekiel 4:1-8

Theological Theme

God takes sin seriously and His people should too, or they will face serious consequences.

Introduction

- ❓ What is a line from a movie or TV show that you quote often?
- ❓ What is it about that line or scene that has stuck with you?

1. Consequences (Ezekiel 4:1-3)

As God's prophet to the people, Ezekiel was tasked with conveying messages from the Lord to His people. Typically, he would speak or preach the truths or warnings from God that applied to the people's current situation. Today's passage includes unusual instruction from God for Ezekiel. Sometimes, God's words aren't taken as seriously as they should be, or He desires to give more emphasis. In this case, He gave His prophet a different angle to take so the people would pay close attention and give the message the consideration it deserved.

- ❓ What are some things that might distract us from receiving the truths of God? How can we guard against this?
- ❓ When have you needed to receive a message in a different way than simply being told? How do we see God's kindness to His people in these actions?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to remember that God takes sin seriously? How does a wrong understanding in this area impact all of life?

2. Duration (Ezekiel 4:4-6)

Consider what this message has to do with believers today. We don't have to go to a priest to physically hand over the weight of our sin. We live on this side of the cross, so Jesus has done that for us once for all. But it remains crucial that we understand how serious our sin is. In a world that tends to encourage people to follow their own truth, make decisions based on what feels good, and excuse anything that might be considered sin, this is an important word. If the church is not on guard, we will fall into these same patterns.

- ❓ Ezekiel's literal posture changed in accordance with God's instruction. How likely are you to obey God in a similar detailed way? How do we see to "align our posture" to God daily?
- ❓ What are some ways the patterns of the world might seep into the life of the church? Why must we be aware of this?
- ❓ Application: What does this passage challenge you about in your own life?

3. Judgment (Ezekiel 4:7-8)

Ezekiel's actions were meant as a warning for God's people. They still serve this purpose for us today. As Christ followers, we should continue to reflect on the high cost of our sin that sent Jesus to the cross. As we do, we are spurred on to continue the fight against sin, seeking to live holy lives before God as He has called us.

- ❓ Why is it impossible to compartmentalize sins affect in our lives? How does this remind us that God's call for confession and repentance is out of love for us?
- ❓ How do warnings of God's judgment serve to continually point us to the cross?
- ❓ Application: How does Christ's payment for your sin motivate you to live every day for Him?

Conclusion

Desperate times call for desperate measures, and that's exactly what was needed with Ezekiel so the exiles could witness his actions and be confronted by the consequences of their own sin. God has always taken sin seriously, and His people must realize that truth. Remembering the seriousness of sin and the high cost paid for our sin on the cross of Christ motivates us to live obedient and faithful lives each day.

- ❓ What is your primary takeaway today regarding the seriousness of sin?
- ❓ How can we encourage one another to take sin seriously and support one another in the fight against it?
- ❓ Who can you share with about the kindness of God revealed in Jesus?