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**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**

Take some time to build relationships with your group:

* Today’s RBQ (Relationship Building Question): If you could create a public service announcement about something you think everyone should know, what would it be and why?

**INTRODUCTION**

We’ve all experienced those moments when we’ve had to sit up straight, pay attention, or get serious because something important is about to happen. Whether it’s an important announcement at school, a big sports game, or a conversation with someone you respect—there are moments in life that require us to shift our posture and give our full attention. Think about how you would sit or stand if someone was giving you life-changing news. You would probably stop what you’re doing, focus on their words, and pay close attention to the details, right?

In today’s passage, God gives Ezekiel an incredibly serious message to deliver to His people—a message that couldn’t be ignored. And the method He chose to deliver that message was just as intense. Ezekiel wasn’t just talking to the people; he was acting out the message in a way that demanded attention. This moment reminds us that the weight of our sin and the consequences that come with it are real. How we respond to God in prayer and confession needs to reflect that seriousness.

***READ EZEKIEL 4:1-3 (Consequences)***

God told Ezekiel to act out a siege on a brick and build a model of the city of Jerusalem, showing that the consequences of Israel’s sin were inevitable. God wanted the people to clearly understand the consequences of their disobedience. The actions of Ezekiel were not just random; they were a visual tool to show how dire things were. Israel had ignored God’s warnings for too long, and now they would experience judgment.

1. **What are some things in life that have consequences, and how do we react when we face them?**
2. **Why do you think Ezekiel was asked to use dramatic actions to communicate God’s message?**

***READ EZEKIEL 4:4-6 (Duration)***

In these verses, God tells Ezekiel to lie on his side for long periods of time, symbolizing the weight of Israel’s sin and the punishment they would face. This lengthy act wasn’t just about a few hours of discomfort—it was about an extended period that represented the long-lasting consequences of sin. Today, we live under the new covenant where Christ has already paid the ultimate price for our sin. But just because we are forgiven doesn’t mean we should treat sin lightly.

1. **Why do you think God chose such a long period (over a year) for Ezekiel to lie on his side? What do you think this shows about God’s perspective on sin?**
2. **How might understanding the seriousness of sin help us in our personal prayer lives? What might it change about the way we approach confession and repentance?**

***READ EZEKIEL 4:7-8 (Judgment)***

As Ezekiel finished his act of lying on his side, God warned him that He would punish Israel because of their rebellion. This judgment was a direct result of the people’s failure to obey God. However, Ezekiel’s actions weren’t just about pointing out their failure—they were also meant to serve as a warning. God wanted His people to reflect on the cost of their actions before it was too late. Today, as followers of Jesus, we are called to remember the price Jesus paid for our sin, which motivates us to live in light of His sacrifice.

1. **How does Ezekiel’s example of enduring God’s judgment point us to the importance of repentance and the need for a Savior?**
2. **How does understanding the judgment of sin help us better appreciate the grace God has shown us through Jesus Christ? How should this motivate the way we live today?**

**WRAP UP**

Today’s passage reminds us of the weight of sin and the seriousness of judgment. Just like Ezekiel had to show the people of Israel how dire their situation was, we need to remember how serious our sin is—and how much it cost for Jesus to take that punishment for us. This should change the way we approach prayer. It should remind us of our need for confession and repentance, but also our gratitude for the grace we’ve been given through Christ.

* **What is one thing you can do this week to reflect more seriously on sin and God’s grace in your life?**

*Ask for any prayer requests, and pray for one another.*