

Small Group Questions

Book of Ezekiel

2-day small group discussions, designed for the 2026 Church Getaway, adaptable to your regular small group meetings

Day 1: Going Deeper with God - Our Need

Introductions.

1. What is your name? Where do you live?
2. Choose a question to answer. Feel free to keep it light:
 - a. What is one of your most embarrassing moments?
 - b. What would you say is your greatest weakness?
 - c. If you could do one thing differently in the past, what would it be?

Discussion Questions:

1. In the book of Ezekiel, God communicates his message through a variety of metaphors, e.g., heart of stone vs heart of flesh, dry bones, wind, stream/river. What metaphor would you use to describe the state of your soul at this time? (Option: take ten to fifteen minutes to walk around the camp grounds to find something that might represent the state of your soul at this time. (Take a picture if you can't collect the object.)
2. In the first part of the book of Ezekiel, God judges Israel for their idolatry and ways that they have broken covenant with Him. Before God restores Israel and gives them hope, he judges and calls out their sin, e.g., turning to other gods instead of Yahweh. Likewise, in order for us to grow deeper in our faith, we too must become aware of where we fall short. Becoming more aware of our need, draws us into greater dependence on God. In the *Praying Life* by Paul Miller, he says, "We don't need self-discipline to pray continuously. We just need to be poor in spirit" (pg. 52). "Strong Christians pray more because they know how weak they are. They don't try to hide it from themselves. Weakness is the channel that allows them access to grace" (p. 44)

Take 10-15 minutes to quietly reflect on these self-examination questions. Then, share with the group or partner whatever you feel comfortable sharing. You don't need to share an answer to every question– just one or two points that you are comfortable sharing. Share with a smaller group or partner.

- a. If you were to rate how dependent on God you feel on a scale from 1-10 (with 10 being completely dependent), what number would you choose? Why isn't that number lower? Higher?
- b. What situations have made you particularly aware of your need for God, e.g., inabilities, physical/economic needs, illnesses, frustrations, relationship problems, family problems, losses? These are your doorway to grace to grow in dependence on God. How persistent have you been in turning these needs and/or anxieties into reliance on God?
- c. In what areas of your life have you kept God out? Been self-sufficient and not asked God to provide? Weigh in? lead/guide?
- d. In what ways have you been cynical and not trusted the goodness of God? Been hard hearted and in need of God to soften your heart?

Praying Together

Silent Prayer: Take a few minutes to pray silently together. Talk to God about whatever needs you become aware of. Ask him for his help and forgiveness. Close with prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude as a group.

Day 2: Going Deeper with God and One Another

1. Introductions (Take time to do introductions given that new people may be joining). Choose one question to answer. Feel free to keep it light:
 - a. What would you be doing this Saturday if you weren't at the retreat?
 - b. Share one dream you have for the distant future? Is there something you want to accomplish? Experience?

2. The book of Ezekiel not only calls out the sin and destruction of Israel but also provides a hope and a future for them. Although God sent them into exile, He was always a sanctuary for them wherever they were scattered (Ezek. 11:16). Question: *In what ways have you sensed God's presence in your life recently (e.g., were you surprised by joy? an answer to prayer? Have you seen Him at work in you, a loved one, a situation)*. Share your answer with one or two people in the group.

4. In the book of Ezekiel, we read of God's dreams and promises for His people— not just an individual. Take a few minutes to read together a few of these prophecies and promises. (Option: divide the group into four smaller groups. Ask each group to read their assigned passage together and to summarize the promises God is giving to Israel through the prophet Ezekiel. Then ask a representative from each group to report back to the larger group).

- a. God promises to gather the scattered exiles giving them one heart and a new spirit. Read Ezekiel 11:14-21

- b. He promises to gather them like a shepherd gathers sheep and to put them under one shepherd from the line of David. Read Ezekiel 34: 25-31.

- c. He promises to put His Spirit within them and give them new life. Read Ezekiel 37: 1-14.

- d. He gives them a dream of fruitfulness and provision. Read: Ezekiel 47: 1-12.

4. These promises and dreams were first fulfilled with the return of the exiles to Jerusalem but then later through the coming, death, and resurrection of the new Davidic King, Jesus. Take a few minutes to consider some of these reflection questions and perhaps share an answer to one of them:

- a. In the New Testament, we see God fulfilling these promises and dreams given in Ezekiel. What is one example of how Jesus fulfills these promises? Or, is there a narrative in the gospels or epistles that exemplifies the promises to you?
- b. Consider your life and how it is part of this larger narrative. How have you witnessed/experienced this newness of life promised in Ezekiel– either in your life or in the life of someone you know? What role did others play in that experience?
- c. Where do you see fruitfulness/life in our community? How have you been the recipient of blessing from the community of God's people?
- d. How can the vision given in Ezekiel be an invitation to dream for something more in our community? What prayers and dreams do you have for Restoration Fellowship based on the vision given in Ezekiel? How could we live into God's story more?

Closing: Prayers for the church, and RF in particular, to live into God's dreams and purposes.