

# XXXIX

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX - Ezekiel | Advent - Joy

#### Main Idea

Advent reminds us that God is at work even in seasons that feel dark, quiet, or broken. In the book of Ezekiel, God's people find themselves in exile, far from home, grieving what was lost, and unsure if hope is still possible. Yet in the middle of their pain, God speaks words of promise and restoration, inviting them to dream again.

This week's message focused on the joy of renewed vision. The joy that comes when God lifts our eyes beyond our current reality and helps us see what He sees. Prayer isn't about informing God of our needs, but aligning our hearts with His purposes. As we begin our discussion, let's open our hearts to the God who restores hope, brings clarity, and invites us to trust Him with renewed, God-honoring dreams.

**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.**

EPHESIANS 3:20

#### Make it Practical:

##### God Restores Joy by Inviting Us to Dream Again

- Ezekiel reminds us that even after loss, exile, and failure, God is still speaking hope and vision.
- The second half of Ezekiel shifts from judgment to restoration. God is not finished with His people.
- Advent joy is found in trusting that God's promises are greater than our present reality.
- Scripture: Ezekiel 34-48; Luke 2:10-11

##### Prayer Realigns Our Vision to See God's Reality

- Prayer isn't informing God about our situation, it's positioning us to see what He sees.
- Some dreams fade, become distorted, or grow unclear... but God invites us to call on Him again!
- When we seek God, He reveals what we could not see on our own.
- Scripture: Jeremiah 33:3; Habakkuk 2:2

##### God Heals Our Vision When We Trust Him with the Process

- Jesus sometimes changes our environment before restoring our sight.
- God's work can be messy and uncomfortable, but it leads to clarity and healing.
- A God-honoring dream often requires faith, patience, and surrender to God's timing.
- Scripture: Mark 8:22-25; Ephesians 3:20

## Talk About It

### 1. What's your dream status right now?

- Which of the five categories best describes you in this season: no dream, wrong dream, stale dream, vague dream, or a God-honoring dream?
- What circumstances, disappointments, or distractions may have influenced where you are today?

### 2. How is prayer shaping what you see?

- The sermon said prayer helps us see God's reality, not just our own. How has your current prayer life impacted your vision for the future?
- What might change if you prayed less for answers and more for clarity and alignment with God?

### 3. Are you trusting God with the process?

- In Mark 8, Jesus heals the blind man in stages and outside the village. Where might God be working gradually rather than instantly in your life?
- Is there an environment, habit, or mindset God could be asking you to step away from so you can see more clearly?

**Prayer isn't about informing God of our reality. It's about aligning our hearts to see God's reality.**

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being a God who restores hope and renews our vision. We bring our dreams, questions, and uncertainties to You, trusting that You see far beyond what we can see. Help us to align our hearts with Your reality, to listen for Your voice, and to trust You with the process, even when it feels uncomfortable or unclear. As we leave this time together, give us courage to dream again and faith to believe that You are still at work in us and through us. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Next Steps

### Create space to hear God clearly.

- Identify one distraction, environment, or habit that may be clouding your spiritual vision, and intentionally step away from it this week to spend focused time in prayer and Scripture.

### Name and clarify the dream God has placed in you.

- Take time to write down what you sense God stirring in your heart, even if it feels vague or incomplete. Ask Him to bring clarity and alignment with His purposes.

### Commit to a process, not just an outcome.

- Trust God with the journey by taking one obedient step forward, believing that He is restoring your vision over time and will bring His work to completion.