

New Song Learning Communities, Sept. 3-6, 2026

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

HISTORY COVERED – Ezekiel is called by God to be a prophet in Babylonian captivity

BIBLE RECAP COVERED – Ezekiel 1-22; August 27- Sept. 2, Days 239-245, circa 593-591 B.C.

Ezek 1 Ezekiel in Babylon, The Glory of the Lord

Ezek 2-3:15 Ezekiel's Call

Ezek 3:16 A Watchman for Israel

Ezek 4 The Siege of Jerusalem Symbolized

Ezek 5 Jerusalem Will Be Destroyed

Ezek 6 Judgment Against Idolatry

Ezek 7 The Day of the Wrath of the Lord

Ezek 8 Abominations in the Temple

Ezek 9 Idolaters Killed

Ezek 10 The Glory of the Lord Leaves the Temple

Ezek 11 Judgment - Wicked Counselors, Israel's New Heart & Spirit

Ezek 12 Judah's Captivity Symbolized

Ezek 13 False Prophets Condemned

Ezek 14 Idolatrous Elders Condemned, Jerusalem Not Be Spared

Ezek 15 Jerusalem, a Useless Vine

Ezek 16 Lord's Faithless Bride, Lord's Everlasting Covenant

Ezek 17 Parable of Two Eagles and a Vine

Ezek 18 The Soul Who Sins Shall Die

Ezek 19 A Lament for the Princes of Israel

Ezek 20 Israel's Continuing Rebellion, Lord Will Restore Israel

Ezek 21 The Lord Has Drawn His Sword

Ezek 22 Israel's Shedding of Blood

➔ Ezekiel – what part does the prophet and the book play in “His-Story?”

Timeline: Isaiah at the end of Israel. Jeremiah to Judah, before and after the end of Judah. Ezekiel, in captivity, is the end of God's ongoing, relentless appeal to Jewish people to return to ***His Presence*** in the Old Testament.

➔ From Sunday... ***God's Most Incredible Offer – HIS PRESENCE***

1. Jesus' shocking promise of God's Presence

John 14:15–31 (ESV) (pew Bible page 901/ Bible Recap page 1729)

TRUTH: We experience God's Presence ***as we obey!***

2. “His-Story” is relationship and partnership as “God with us.”

† Eden

Genesis 3:8a (ESV) ⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

† Abraham

Genesis 26:3–5 (ESV) ³Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ⁵because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”

† Joseph

Genesis 39:2 (ESV) The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

† The Exodus

Exodus 3:12 (ESV) ¹²He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

† The Promised Land

Joshua 1:5 (ESV) ⁵No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

3. Ezekiel's shocking vision of God's Presence

“The Glory of the Lord” is God's “manifest” Presence

Ezekiel 10:18–19 (ESV) (pew Bible page 698/ Bible Recap page 1772)

† **TRUTH:** the times it seems that God is farthest away may be the very times God is closest

Ezekiel 11:14–25 (ESV) (pew Bible page 699/ Bible Recap page 1773)

➔ Ezekiel – God’s prophet in captivity

Do you have questions about the chapters in Ezekiel?

Probably best known for the valley of dry bones, the creatures with the wheels within wheels, visions of new temple, his call to be a watchman for God’s people

End of God’s ongoing, relentless appeal to Jewish people to return to His Presence in the Old Testament.

APPLICATION: God pulls out the stops to reach us relentlessly. “Prevenient grace” – God’s undeserved work in our lives that “comes before” our conscious decision to follow Christ.

VISIONS: God reveals Himself to Ezekiel in visions that are stranger than to most prophets

Chap. 1, 10, 43 – The Glory of God in, leaving and returning to the Temple, description of the four creatures and the wheels within wheels

Chap. 37 – Valley of Dry Bones

APPLICATION: God still sometimes gives us visions or prayer pictures

OBJECT LESSONS: Ezekiel, at God’s instructions, provides visuals that are stranger than most prophets

Chap. 4 – build a battle scene, lay on sides, eating famine rations,

Chap. 11 – cutting off hair with sword, then burning, chopping and scattering it

Chap. 12 – live as exile with baggage

Chap. 24 – do not mourn death of his wife

APPLICATION: does God still tell us to do strange things? Define strange:

Sermon on the Mount is familiar to us but was strange and shocking to original listeners

WORDS: Ezekiel delivers God’s words in connection to the visions and object lessons:

- ➔ Repent: and return or God’s receive God’s judgement
 - ➔ Judgement: God’s punishment is coming to His people and to other countries
 - ➔ Lament: God grieves over His people and other countries
 - ➔ Hope: God will restore all things and give those who turn to Him new hearts and His Presence anew
- Chap. 37, 40-48 – future hope

HERB’S OBSERVATIONS:

*God is sovereign over all, works through pagan rulers & nations, all subject to Him including powers of hell
God can do anything He wants within the limits He has placed on Himself by His character and words
Just because there is a spiritual war doesn’t mean the outcome is in question. The issue is about who will repent to turn to God to be on His side and experience His eternal life.*

God’s work never takes a break even when we don’t see it

Chronological Guide: bottom p. 99, p. 100, bottom p. 101

Takeaways:

