September 7, 2025 Discussion Guide Scripture reading: Ezekiel 40-46

CHECK UP:

*Memory Work: And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.'

- Fzekiel 38:23

*How did you live as a victor in Christ this past week?

OPEN:

- What was a highlight in your week this past week? What was a particular challenge you had?
- Did you B.L.E.S.S. someone this past week? (Begin in prayer, Listen, Eat, Serve, Share)
- What stood out from this past week's reading?
 - o What do you have questions about?

Setting the stage: Ezekiel has been given another vision like chapter 1, and 8 (the chariot throne of God) where he is given a tour of the temple of God. The passage is another challenging one that has baffled many and left many Bible students with different perspectives. A good spot to focus on is Ezekiel 43 which speaks of the purpose for this vision.

READ and ASK: Ezekiel 43:1-11

- In the second chariot throne vision of God, God's glory was leaving the temple. Here, we have him returning. What do you think is the main message being communicated?
- Ezekiel 43 tells us the perfection of the temple was meant to draw a contrast with the sin of the people. Why do you think God said that would happen?
- How would this vision give hope to God's people?

READ and ASK: Hebrews 9:11-10:4; 1 Corinthians 6:19

- Even though this passage can also be a bit complex, how does it shed light on how we should understand Ezekiel 40-46?
 - o How does the context of everything we have studied from the book of Ezekiel help us understand the temple vision? (God promised a new covenant was coming, God is going to defeat the evil of the world, and now Ezekiel is given a vision of a new temple).

- God's temple was the place for the presence of God to be accessible to people. We are now the temple of God on earth stewarding his presence through the Holy Spirit. How does it shape your self-understanding to think of yourself as a temple of God?

APPLY:

- How does being confronted with the holiness of God convict us of our sin?
- God again calls his people away from idolatry in Ezekiel 43:9. What idolatry do you think God's people need called away from today?
 - What idols do we need to rid ourselves of? Why do we seemingly "trade" the holiness of God for idols so easily?
- God's desire is for people to be in His presence. What encouragement does that bring you?
- NEXT STEPS: How can you take the holiness of God more seriously this week?

Memory Work:

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

- Hebrews 9:24

Next Week's Reading: Ezekiel 47-48