



BIBLE STUDY BOOK- TERM 3 2019

# BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM – TERM 3 2019

| Week commencing                  |                                | Reading Plan  | Page Number |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <i>29<sup>th</sup> July</i>      | 1. The Introduction            | Ezekiel 1     | 8           |
| <i>5<sup>th</sup> August</i>     | Global Mission week            |               | 14          |
| <i>12<sup>th</sup> August</i>    | 2. Ezekiel's Commissioning     | Ezekiel 2-3   | 15          |
| <i>19<sup>th</sup> August</i>    | 3. Judgement & hope            | Ezekiel 4-5   | 20          |
| <i>26<sup>th</sup> August</i>    | 4. The meat in the pot         | Ezekiel 11    | 26          |
| <i>2<sup>nd</sup> September</i>  | 5. The Watchman                | Ezekiel 33    | 32          |
| <i>9<sup>th</sup> September</i>  | 6. Warning for false Shepherds | Ezekiel 34    | 38          |
| <i>16<sup>th</sup> September</i> | 7. Old Habits, New Hearts      | Ezekiel 36-37 | 43          |
| <i>23<sup>rd</sup> September</i> | Social                         |               |             |

Bible Studies written by Tim Goldsmith  
 Cover artwork by Lisa Byrnes  
 Copyright © 2019 All Rights Reserved  
 St Luke's Anglican Church, Miranda

ST LUKE'S  
**2020**  
**VISION**

**Imagine a church:**

Where delight in God  
overflows into all of life

Where enduring truth  
inspires courageous witness  
and a heart for the nations

Where the lost surrender  
to the mercy of Christ

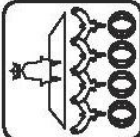




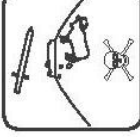




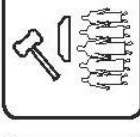

Where a hunger to  
know, love & serve Christ  
renews every season






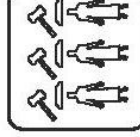




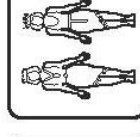

Where the broken find  
a family and the outsider  
is embraced

# EZEKIEL IN PICTURES

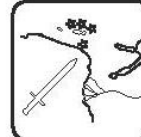
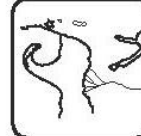





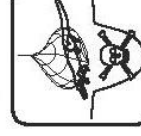

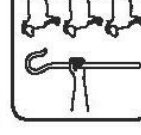
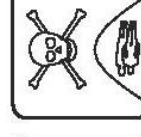

© Mark Barry 2003. [visualunit.me](http://visualunit.me) Please do not republish without permission, but feel free to copy for personal use.

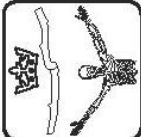



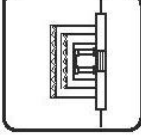

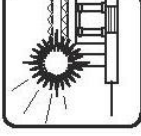
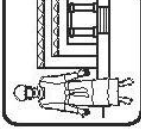


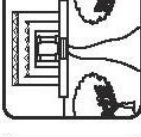

## THE SOVEREIGN LORD JUDGES ISRAEL (1-24)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7  | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| The four creatures & the glory of God   | Ezekiel's call to prophesy to Israel  | Ezekiel: a watchman for Israel  | Ezekiel enacts Jerusalem's siege  | Ezekiel enacts Jerusalem's destruction  | Judgement on the mountains of Israel  | God's wrath poured out on Israel - "The end has come!"                             | Idolatry in the temple  | Idolaters slaughtered & the righteous spared                                      | The glory of God departs from the temple  | Israel's leaders judged for their idolatry  | Ezekiel enacts the exile of Israel  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19   | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| The false prophets of Israel condemned  | Idolaters condemned   | Jerusalem: a useless branch to be consumed by fire                                  | Jerusalem: an unfaithful prostitute - yet God will restore his covenant             | Israel carried off by foreign eagles - yet God will plant his own tree              | The soul who sins is the one who dies - repent & live!                              | A lament for the exiled lions of Israel  | Israel's history of rebellion - yet God will gather his people                    | Babylon: God's sword of judgement against Israel                                  | Rebellious Jerusalem to be melted in the furnace of God's wrath                   | Samaria & Jerusalem prostitute themselves to the nations                          | Israel in the cooking pot & Ezekiel not to mourn his wife's death                 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## THE SOVEREIGN LORD JUDGES THE NATIONS (25-32)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 25   | 26   | 27   | 28   | 29   | 30   | 31  | 32   | 33   | 34   | 35   | 36   |
| God to take vengeance on Ammon, Moab, Edom & Philistia                               | God to destroy Tyre in a wave of wrath   | God to sink the ships & riches of Tyre to the bottom of the sea                      | God to slay the king of Tyre & destroy Sidon   | God to drag Pharaoh from the Nile & judge Egypt                                      | God to strengthen the arm of Babylon & break the arm of Egypt                        | Pharaoh: a tall tree to be cut down & destroyed                                     | Pharaoh to be captured, killed & thrown into the pit                               | Ezekiel: again a watchman - "Turn back to God & live!"                             | God to condemn Israel's shepherds & restore his people                             | God to destroy Edom & the mountains of Seir  | God to restore the mountains of Israel & give Israel a new heart                   |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37  | 38  | 39  | 40  | 41  | 42  | 43   | 44  | 45  | 46  | 47  | 48  |
| God to resurrect Israel as one nation under his king                                  | God to destroy the enemy of his people: Gog & Magog                                   | God to destroy the armies of Gog & to gather Israel back into the land                | The new temple on a very high mountain  | The new temple & the most holy place  | Rooms for priests in the temple   | The glory of God returns to the temple   | The prince & the priests  | Division of the land - the sacred precincts & offerings                             | Offerings & holy days   | The river flowing from the temple   | Division of the land & the gates of the city: "The Lord is there!"                  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

This image of "Ezekiel in Pictures" can be found on our church website under the resources.

# Ezekiel – Old Habits, New Hearts

## Introduction

There is a lot of full-on activity going on in the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel (whose name means ‘Strength of God’, or ‘God Strengthens’) sees some mind-bending visions, he performs extreme acts like shaving his head with a sword, or lying on his side for a full year. Some commentators have questioned whether Ezekiel was experiencing a mental breakdown, refusing to mourn the death of his wife. Couple this with declarations of judgement for both Israel and a host of other nations, and Ezekiel presents itself as a formidable text.

With great complexity, however, comes great reward. Ezekiel is a real jewel of the Old Testament, filled with clear and powerful images that speak to humanity’s capacity for self-deception, the fragility of our successes and God’s unfailing love and commitment toward his underserving people.

## The Background and structure of the book

Understanding the timing of Ezekiel is arguably easier than any other prophetic book in the Old Testament, namely because the author himself dates his visions and revelations on 16 different occasions, including 11 dates which are down to the very *day* of the vision (1:1; 8:1; 20:1; 24:1; 29:1; 29:17; 30:20; 31:1; 32:1; 33:21; 40:1). The dating of the book is based on the timing of the exile of King Jehoiachin (also known as Jeconiah) by Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar.

Both Ezekiel’s visions and the action in the book take place over a 2-decade period between 593 and 571 BC, straddling the final defeat of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar in 586BC. Ezekiel’s prophetic ministry speaks both to the remnant in Jerusalem and the exiles in Babylonian territory.

Ezekiel is written in the first person from Ezekiel’s perspective, but the dominant voice in the book is not actually Ezekiel’s but God’s.

Ezekiel’s most fundamental structure is shared by each of the major prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel), providing: 1) oracles against Israel, 2) oracles against ‘the nations’, and finally, 3) consolation for Israel.

## **The social and political situation at the time**

In 605BC Jerusalem was besieged by Nebuchadnezzar, leading to many of the young aristocracy being captured and taken to Babylon. This included Daniel and his three friends. Jerusalem was besieged again in 597BC, just before Ezekiel begins his prophetic ministry.

One of the pieces of political tension that existed for Israelites at the time was that of the connection between identity and land. On one side, the Babylonian exiles were called to prosper in their new homes (Jeremiah 29:10-12), confident that God was at work amongst them. On the other side, the Israelites who remained constantly found themselves in morally compromised situations, as they fought for autonomy, making and breaking alliances with surrounding nations. With that said, there is a clear impression that they considered themselves to be more “legitimate” than their Babylonian cousins, because of their geographical placement. What does life look like in the absence of the Babylonian captives? Do they have a right to make claims on property etc.?

Theologically, Israelites had to work out what whole-hearted worship looked like in a world where they lived subject to a foreign power. How do they maintain distinctive patterns of worship in a society that is being shaped by the culture of their captors?

## **The things we’re covering and the things we won’t...**

At 48 chapters, Ezekiel is not a small book and to cover it in its entirety would require us to read and dissect around seven chapters a week! It is the determination of this writer that we’ll get more value out of a deep focus on smaller passages than if we attempted the mammoth task of reading everything.

So what do we cut out then? If you look at the structure of the book as a whole, you’ll notice that there are two large sections that we basically won’t touch. The first is Chapters 13-32. This section covers both God’s unpacking of his case against the people of Judah (Ch13-24). These are fascinating (and colourful) chapters, but there are a dozen studies worth of material there alone. Rather than getting down to the detail, our studies will stay ‘big picture’.

After this comes the oracles of judgement against ‘the Nations’ in chapters 25-32. Again, rather than getting bogged down in the history and detail of these oracles, these studies will focus on God’s people and their relationship with their Lord. The final section we’re missing is Chapters 40-48 that focus on the coming restoration of the temple. The link between people, place and (God’s) presence in the book of Ezekiel is a big one. The astute reader will notice the key role that the temple plays in Ezekiel’s visions and judgements early in the book. That said, if this theme was given the amount of attention it deserved, it would dominate a small series like this.

## If you're looking for a little more

If you would like to explore some of the themes, or you'd just like to have a companion book while reading through Ezekiel as a whole, Peter Lau's "Ezekiel: for his glory" is a short book that provides 49 undated devotions that will take you through the book as a whole. St. Luke's will have 50 copies available for sale at the back of the church (\$5 each), or you can buy them online by searching for the title at [wanderingbookseller.com.au](http://wanderingbookseller.com.au) (\$7.99 each)

## Bibliography

Barry, Mark "Ezekiel in pictures" <https://visualunit.me/tag/ezekiel/>

Brownlee, William H. "Ezekiel" (Word Biblical Commentary)

Calvin, John "Commentary on Ezekiel"

Condren, Janson "Ezekiel Chart" (SMBC Old Testament Lectures)

Taylor, John B. "Ezekiel" (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)

The Bible Project - <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/ezekiel/>

Tuell, Steven "Ezekiel" (Understanding the Bible Commentary Series)

Wright, Christopher "The Message of Ezekiel" (The Bible Speaks Today)

### Buzz words & Phrases in Ezekiel

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>"Know that I am the Lord"</b>         | Occurs 54 times |
| <b>"The word of the Lord came to me"</b> | Occurs 49 times |
| <b>Heart(s)</b>                          | Occurs 28 times |
| <b>Vision(s)</b>                         | Occurs 21 times |
| <b>Wrath</b>                             | Occurs 33 times |
| <b>Covenant</b>                          | Occurs 12 times |
| <b>"My holy name"</b>                    | Occurs 8 times  |
| <b>"I fell facedown"</b>                 | Occurs 6 times  |





## Read Ezekiel 1

1. What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?

## Investigate Ezekiel 1:1-14

2. The book of Ezekiel begins in “*the thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day*” Look at Ezekiel 40:1 (Ezekiel’s last vision), then Numbers 4:1-3. What do you think is the significance of these book-end dates for Ezekiel?
3. Verse 3 notes that this inaugural vision happens, not in Jerusalem, but in the land of the Babylonians. As we begin a book that focuses intensely on Israel’s identity, what does it mean for the start the story in a foreign land? (see also 1 Kings 8:22-28)

**4. Verses 4-14 have some pretty intense images for Ezekiel (and us) to see. What kind of feelings do you think this vision is supposed to evoke?**

- **Turn to Revelation 4:1-8, how does the appearance of these creatures in John's end-time revelation add to this vision?**

- **What do you think the different animals might represent?**

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*The 'living creatures' that Ezekiel saw made another appearance in Revelation, but they also made later appearances in Christian art. Each creature would later be associated with the four different gospel writers. We're not sure how it began, but even today you can visit St. Mark's Square in Venice and see statues and pictures of Lions everywhere. Similarly, many older Anglican churches have lecterns that are in the shape of an Eagle. This was to encourage preachers to be bold and unflinching like John. Matthew was associated with a man (or angel), because his gospel started with a long genealogy, while Luke, famous for writing an orderly and structured gospel account, was associated with the Ox, a figure of service, strength and dependability.*

*Understanding the use of these images in art may not add depth to our spirituality, but it can help us see hidden depth of meaning in Christian art throughout history.*

## Investigate Ezekiel 1:15-28

- **Verses 16-21 add another image of intersecting wheels (that some read as being spheres). What do you think they add to the overall picture?**

- **After the wheels, come the penultimate visual of an ‘expanse’ above the creatures. Look back to Genesis 1:6-8 to get an indication of what this represents in Ezekiel’s vision.**

5. **The final piece of the visual puzzle comes as Ezekiel sees God’s heavenly throne and a ‘theophany’ (a visible manifestation to humankind of God). What is Ezekiel’s response to all that he has seen? Why do you think he responds this way?**

## **Applying the text**

**6. The modern evangelical church has done wonders in making the gospel more approachable and engaging for people not familiar with Christianity, but one critique of evangelicals is in making church approachable and clear, we've lost a sense of God's power and majesty. How/why is Ezekiel 1 a helpful chapter for us to read as a corrective?**

- Where/how might we cultivate opportunities to reflect on the majesty of God in our modern world?**

**7. Consider the unapproachable vision of the glorious God on his throne in verses 25-28. How does this picture of power and authority inform what it meant for Jesus to take on human flesh for us?**

**8. Our context in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is much more privileged than that of the Babylonian exiles. That said, how is this chapter an encouragement to us, when we might feel like we're exiles in the modern world?**

## **Prayers**

---

Pray for Brett and Mardi, Evie, Harriet, Olivia, and Willow Middleton. Pray for Brett as Focus Pastor for 10am. Pray for Brett as he serves us as Senior Minister

Pray for Matt and Lauren, Ezra, Joanna and Samuel Thomas and their mission work with OMF International to an unreached people group in South East Asia.

Pray for our Church Wardens: Colin Adams, Colin Contessa and Joel Garlato. Pray for our Parish Councillors: Laurie Davidson, Amanda Garlato, Elise Adams, Nathan Pollock, Simon Veltmeyer (also our treasurer) and Kath Telfer. Pray for our Parish Nominators: Michael Easton, David Francis, Amanda Garlato, Louise Parkes, and Lloyd Zietsch. Pray for our Synod Reps: Michael Easton and Amanda Garlato.

Pray for the wide range of outreach opportunities that we have with local schools. Pray that our scripture teachers would be diligent and loving as they teach classes. Pray that our school chaplains would effectively model Christ in the way they love and support the school community. Pray that our Kids Hope mentors would be a loving and stable relationship for children with social needs. Pray that School Lunch program leaders will be bold in their example and witness to their school communities. Pray for the volunteers running Breakfast Club at Miranda Public and Port Hacking High School.

Pray for the upcoming Men's Base Camp on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

Pray for Acts2Too – Lunch with Speaker Rev Ian Barnett this Saturday.



# global missions week

4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Speakers

**Shane & Ruth Sparks – Kye, Joel and Finn**

Missionaries with Pioneers in Gijon, Spain.

&

**Richard Chin**

(National Director of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students - AFES)

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August

8am & 10am Jackson Ave — Speaker: Richard Chin

10am Miranda Nth & 5pm Jackson Ave — Speaker: Shane & Ruth Sparks

## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August

10.30am Combined Bible Study Groups — Fellowship Centre

Speaker: Shane & Ruth Sparks – seminar with Q & A

7.30pm Combined Bible Study Groups — Fellowship Centre

Speaker: Richard Chin – seminar with Q & A

## Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August

7.30pm Combined Bible Study Groups — Fellowship Centre

Speaker: Richard Chin – seminar with Q & A

## Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August

10.30am Care & Share — Fellowship Centre

Speaker: Shane & Ruth Sparks – seminar with Q & A

## Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August

10am ESL – Fellowship Centre

6.30pm Youth Groups – Fellowship Centre

Speaker: Shane & Ruth Sparks – seminar with Q & A

## Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August

Spanish Mission Dinner — Speaker: Shane & Ruth Sparks

6.30pm for 7pm - St Luke's Fellowship Centre

## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August

8am & 10am Jackson Ave — Speaker: Shane & Ruth Sparks

10am Miranda Nth, 5pm & 7pm Jackson Ave — Speaker: Richard Chin



“Calling of Ezekiel” by Marc Chagall  
Source: Deerfield Museum collections database

## Study 2 Old Habits, New Hearts

### *Ezekiel’s Commissioning* *Ezekiel Chapters 2-3*

#### **Discuss**

What is the best piece of advice (Christian or other) you have been given? Ever been given advice that you wish you took?

#### **Read Ezekiel 2-3**

**1. What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?**

#### **Investigate and apply Ezekiel 2**

**2. What task does God give to Ezekiel and what is the unusual outcome that is the goal of his task?**

**3. According to verses 3-8 what is the likely outcome that Ezekiel might expect?**

**Investigate and apply Ezekiel 3**

**4. Ezekiel is given a task of judgement for his listeners. The words he is to say are represented in the scroll; words of lament and mourning and woe. Why then do you think the words are said to be “sweet as honey in my mouth”. (See also Jeremiah 15:16)**

**5. How are God’s words to Ezekiel a comfort to us when we too might feel the weight and the difficulty of preaching a gospel which includes the reality of sin and judgement?**



**6. In verses 12-15, Ezekiel moves out of the Heavenly throne room and finds himself back amongst the exiles. Full of “bitterness and in the anger of [his] spirit” . What’s his initial response to God’s message? Why do you think that is?**

**7. How do you think Ezekiel’s initial response plays a role in God’s message to him in v.16-21**

**8. We’ll revisit Ezekiel’s role as a “Watchman” later in this series (Chapter 33). Meanwhile, what is the big picture that v.16-21 delivers?**

- Is Ezekiel somehow being made responsible for their sin?

### **Application**

**9. Read Romans 10:14-15. How does it connect with a passage like Ezekiel 3?**

**10. How does this first physical prophecy that Ezekiel will live out in 24-27 appear to stand in juxtaposition to what God has been preparing Ezekiel to do for the last 2 chapters?**

**11. Some might argue that recent events like the Instagram post that got Israel Folau fired from Australian rugby is simply an extension of doing what Ezekiel did. While he is an encouragement to us, why shouldn't we follow Ezekiel as a strict "how to" for evangelism?**

## **Prayers**

---

Pray for Jennie and Don Everist. Pray for Jennie as Focus Pastor of the 8am congregation and as Pastoral Care Minister for St Luke's. Pray for Jennie's Pastoral Care ministries, especially in her work in visitation and Bible Study in our local retirement villages.

Pray for Shane and Ruth, Kye, Joel, and Finn Sparks and their mission work with Pioneers making disciples in Gijon, Spain.

Pray for John and Jodi, Gemma, Amber, Zoe, Jasmine, Claudia and Elias Lovell. Pray for John as Pastor of Valencia Anglican Church and his work as the Regional Director for MOCLAM in Valencia, Spain.

Pray for our Prime Minister and government. Pray for our state and federal members, our Premier and government. We pray also for our local council including our Mayor.

Pray for those who serve to protect our country. Pray for health and safety for the service men and women and their Chaplains both here and overseas. Pray for their families waiting at home.

Pray that the word of God we heard on Sunday might shape how we live Monday to Friday. Pray that we would be respectful of workplace boundaries, but that we'd also *"be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks [us] to give the reason for the hope that [we] have"* (1 Peter 3:15). Thank God that we have the opportunity to represent Christ in how we speak and act in the workplace.

## Study 3

### Old Habits, New Hearts

*Judgement and hope  
Ezekiel Chapters 4-5*

#### Discuss

*What's the worst meal you've ever eaten and why?*



"Ezekiel shaves his head" by unknown  
Source: Deerfield Museum collections

#### **Read Ezekiel 4-5**

- 1. What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?**

#### **Investigate and apply Ezekiel 4**

- 2. Look at verses 1-3. What are the different elements of Ezekiel's physical enactment? What do you think they represent? What do you think the iron pan represents and why is it important in this vision?**



6. **How might Ezekiel's refusal to cook his food on human dung provide a good model for us in how we go about evangelism in our world?**

### **Investigate and apply Ezekiel 5**

7. **Ezekiel 5:1-4 captures the final capture and destruction of Jerusalem. Read 2 Kings 25:1-12. How do you think the different aspects of the prophecy fit with the recorded act? Is there any hope in this account?**
8. **How is v.7 a particular 'kick in the pants' to the people of Jerusalem? How is it that their actions are effectively trying to undo God's promises to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3?**

- Are there areas of our lives as a Christian community where we might go about things in such a way that were achieving the opposite result to that which we're called?

9. Verse 11 indicates the main reason why God has turned against the people remaining in Jerusalem (which he expands on in chapters 8-10, which we don't have the time to cover). What is this primary reason for relational breakdown?

### **Application**

10. It's worth remembering that Ezekiel himself suffers pretty horrendously here, stuck on his side for long periods and forced to endure starvation rations. Is there a message for us here?

**11. Even God's acts of judgement serve a purpose. What purpose does God outline in v.13 (see also 6:7 & 10)**

**12. Ezekiel is fairly unique in his being a "Physical sign" to the people of Israel (Isaiah 20:3, and Hosea 1:2 are the only other examples that come to mind). Can you think of modern equivalents of people using physical acts to point to deep truths? Can you think of any creative ways that you as an individual, a bible study, or we as a church could express the gospel in a physical way?**



## Prayers

---

Pray for Tim and Shona, Annika, Hamish, Edward and Hugo Goldsmith. Pray for Tim as Focus Pastor for the Miranda North and Church at 5 congregations. Pray for Tim as he heads up our Local Mission profile for St Luke's and focuses on outreach and evangelism.

Pray for John-Francis and Anup Wallace. Pray for John-Francis as Pastor of Shalom Calvary Church. Pray for the Wallace's and their local mission work in Indore, North India.

Pray for Sarah Prabhakar and her work in India with BCTI and SIM.

Pray for peace and wise leadership in our world. Pray that there would be opportunities for Christians to share the love, peace and saving grace that Jesus offers to all.

Pray for English as a Second Language classes each Friday during school term. Give thanks for Marina and her team as they teach and encourage those who come along. Pray for the end of term Easy English Service, that people would attend and understand the Bible and Jesus' saving grace.

Thank God for the many and varied resources available to us as a parish. As we seek to witness to the goodness of God daily, pray that we might make the most of opportunities to invite people we know to events at church. Pray that God would be preparing the heart of people we could invite to an upcoming event.



Source: Creative Commons

## Study 4

### Old Habits, New Hearts

*The Meat in the pot*  
*Ezekiel 11:1-25*

#### Discuss

*What do you think defines a spiritual person? Have you ever been made to feel spiritually inferior by another?*

#### **Read Ezekiel 11:1-25**

**1. What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?**

**2. Read v.1-3. There are two odd statements that the leaders in the besieged city, Jaazaniah & Pelatiah say. What do you think they mean by saying “Will it not soon be time to build houses” and “This city is a cooking pot and we are the meat”? (See also Micah 2:1-2)**

**3. What assumptions do remaining Jerusalemites appear to be making about their geographical position and what does it say about their relationship with God? How does God challenge their presupposition in v.5-6?**

**4. How does v.13 show that Ezekiel himself is struggling to understand/trust God?**

**a) How does the view that the Jerusalem remnant and Ezekiel hold, sit against God's teaching to the exiles in Jeremiah 29:1-11, written around the same period?**

**5. How do verses 14-17 provide a helpful corrective to Ezekiel's fears?**

**6. In Chapter 36, we'll explore God's promise that he will give his chosen people a "New Heart", but here the promise is that his people will be given an "undivided heart". How has divisiveness played a role in their downfall so far?**

**7. Theologian Margaret Odell suggests that the Jerusalem remnant have grounded their Jewish identity on "location" rather than "orientation".**

**a) What do you think she means by this?**

**b) How is this a danger that we face in the church?**

**c) What are some ways that we can combat this temptation?**

**Application**

**8. How are we tempted to limit God's work to being "within the city walls" (within church, or our Bible Study)? Identify one area of your life outside of church where you would pray that God would do some new work.**

**9. Read John 13:34-35. Jesus was deeply committed to his disciples having undivided hearts. What does it mean to express unity for us as a church family?**

**10. Look at 2 Corinthians 3:3-6. How does this express the fulfilment of God's promise?**

## Prayers

---

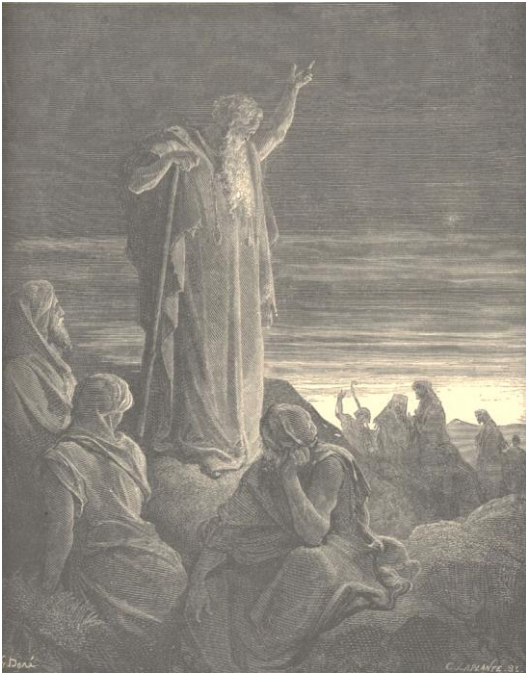
Pray for Sam and Jess, Percy, Lois and Finn Morton. Pray for Sam as Focus Pastor of Night Church. Pray for Sam as he heads up Youth Ministry at St Luke's – coordinating our youth groups on Friday nights and high school Scripture in our local schools. Pray for Sam as he also heads up Young Adults ministry and Young Adults Bible Studies.

Pray for Eloise Bull as she supports Sam in ministering to the youth of St Lukes.

Pray for Andrew and Adele, Isaac, Lucy, and Finn Southerton and their church plant in Wellington, City on a Hill, New Zealand.

Pray for Miranda North; that there would be many opportunities to connect with the local community through school and other activities.

Thank God for his loving provision in drawing us to him and making us his children and heirs. Pray for members of our families and those close to us who do not know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Pray for both wisdom and boldness in how to share the good news we have with those who are nearest and dearest to us.



“Ezekiel Prophesying” by Gustave Dore  
Source: Accordance Gallery of Bible Art

## Study 5 Old Habits New Hearts

*The Watchman*  
*Ezekiel 33:1-33*

### Discuss

Today is all about a rescue story. Can you think of an occasion, when you have given up too early on something?

### **Read Ezekiel 33:1-33**

- 1. What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. There is a lot going on in this chapter. Spend a couple of minutes as individuals reading through the chapter and breaking it into sections, then share where & why you made your sections.**



**Investigate and apply verses 1-9**

**3. To best understand this passage, it helps to turn firstly to 3:16-21, which affirms Ezekiel's role in relationship to his people, and then to Chapter 18 (which deserves its own study... if only we had the time). According to Chapter 3, what is Ezekiel's role? According to Chapter 18, who is responsible for the situation that Israel finds itself in?**

**4. According to v.1-6 what role does the watchman play for the people in a town?**

***a) In v7-9 what does Ezekiel's role as watchman entail?***

**5. Verses 1-9 contain a warning for both the people and for Ezekiel. What are they?**

*a) What do we learn about individual and corporate responsibility here?*

*b) Read Matthew 7:1-5 (which we looked at in T1). How does Jesus' instruction add nuance to Ezekiel's call?*

6. People often characterise God in the Old Testament as “angry God” and God in the New Testament as “loving God”. How do verses 10-11 challenge that accusation and display a consistency in God’s character?

7. Last week we looked at the challenge for Israel to define themselves via their “orientation” toward the Lord rather than their “location” in Jerusalem (or Babylon). How is v.10-20 of this chapter also about a type of “orientation”?

*a) How is a passage like this an encouragement for those who feel “it’s too late for me”, or struggling with long-term sin? (See also Matthew 18:21-22)*

- 8. For the Jewish people in the 5th Century BC, they had this great promise that God was willing to forgive them and start again. How much better is the “good news” for those of us who are lucky enough to live on the other side of Christ’s death and resurrection?**
- 9. Read v.23-26. We’ve only just been told of the defeat of Jerusalem, yet straight away the remaining inhabitants fall back into claiming that they have a special right to the land. How does God correct them? (See also Romans 2:28-29)**
- 10. In verses 27-32 we have a word of Judgement on the remnant in Jerusalem, but lest the exiles get too cocky about their position, God delivers a corrective for them too. What has been their error?**

***a) How can we avoid the trap of seeing the sin in other's lives, but ignoring the struggle that we have in our own?***

## **Prayers**

---

This week as we come together in prayer, we aim to spend time praying for our parish at St Luke's and the ministry that is happening here.

Here are some suggested prayer points for your group this week.

- *For God's blessing on the ministry under the leadership of Brett Middleton.*
- *That the staff team will continue to serve and lead our parish faithfully.*
- *For the Gospel to be proclaimed in truth and love across all our ministries and services.*
- *That God will continue to give wisdom to those charged with seeking and planning future directions in our parish for our ministry and church site.*
- *That God will provide the financial resources needed to continue and grow the ministry in our parish.*

**Note: Please remind your group of the upcoming prayer event this Saturday the 7th of September at St Luke's.**



“Christian Sarcophagus depicting a good shepherd surrounded by sheep”

Source: Museo Pio Cristiano, Vatican Museums

## Study 6

### Old Habits, New Hearts

*A warning for false Shepherds*  
*Ezekiel 34:1-31*

#### Discuss

*Can you think of a great “Shepherd” or mentor who has guided you in life? (it doesn’t have to be a Christian one). What was it about them that you appreciated?*

#### **Read Ezekiel 34:1-31**

**1. What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?**

**2. Read verses 1-6. What are the failings that God lists for the shepherds of Israel?**

- 3. If you had to distil the behaviour of these shepherds into one major failing, what would it be?**
- 4. Turn back to 1 Samuel 8:10-22. What was God's warning to his people if they insisted on having human kings like their neighbours rather than following their heavenly king? How is this an extension of that warning?**

***a) Have a look at the chart of Israel's kings on the following page and look up a couple of good and bad ones. Are even the good kings all good?***

5. Verses 11-16 introduce God as the Good Shepherd. What are the characteristics that distinguish him from the previous shepherds?

6. Do you think the statement in v.16 “*but the sleek and the strong I will destroy*” is saying that it is wrong to be wealthy or successful? (see also Jeremiah 29:4-7)

| Kings of Judah                         | Bible         | Good/Bad | Kings of Israel                       | Bible         | All Bad |
|--|---------------|----------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Rehoboam                               | 1 Kings 11-14 | BAD      | Jeroboam I                            | 1 Kings 12-14 | BAD     |
| Abijam                                 | 1 Kings 14-15 | BAD      | Nadab                                 | 1 Kings 15    | BAD     |
| Asa                                    | 1 Kings 15    | Good     | Baasha                                | 1 Kings 15-16 | BAD     |
|  |               |          | Elah                                  | 1 Kings 16    | BAD     |
|  |               |          | Zimri                                 | 1 Kings 16    | BAD     |
|  |               |          | Omri                                  | 1 Kings 16    | BAD     |
|  |               |          | Ahab                                  | 1 Kings 16    | BAD     |
| Jehoshaphat                            | 1 Kings 22    | Good     | Ahaziah                               | 1 Kings 22    | BAD     |
|  |               |          | Jehoram                               | 2 Kings 1     | BAD     |
| Jehoram                                | 2 Kings 8     | BAD      | Jehu                                  | 2 Kings 3-9   | BAD     |
| Ahaziah                                | 2 Kings 8-9   | BAD      | Jehoahaz                              | 2 Kings 9-10  | BAD     |
| Athaliah                               | 2 Kings 11    | BAD      |                                       |               |         |
| Joash                                  | 2 Kings 11-12 | Good     | Jehoash                               | 2 Kings 13-14 | BAD     |
| Amaziah                                | 2 Kings 14    | Good     | Jeroboam II                           | 2 Kings 14    | BAD     |
| Azariah                                | 2 Kings 15    | Good     | Zechariah                             | 2 Kings 14-15 | BAD     |
|  |               |          | Shallum                               | 2 Kings 15    | BAD     |
| Jotham                                 | 2 Kings 15    | Good     | Menahem                               | 2 Kings 15    | BAD     |
|  |               |          | Pekahiah                              | 2 Kings 15    | BAD     |
|  |               |          | Pekahiah                              | 2 Kings 15    | BAD     |
| Ahaziah                                | 2 Kings 16    | BAD      | Hoshea                                | 2 Kings 15-17 | BAD     |
| Hezekiah                               | 2 Kings 18-20 | Good     | <b>Assyrian Captivity - No return</b> |               |         |
| Manasseh                               | 2 Kings 21    | BAD      |                                       |               |         |
| Amon                                   | 2 Kings 21    | BAD      |                                       |               |         |
| Josiah                                 | 2 Kings 21-23 | Good     |                                       |               |         |
| Jehoahaz                               | 2 Kings 23    | BAD      |                                       |               |         |
| Jehoiakim                              | 2 Kings 23    | BAD      |                                       |               |         |
| Jehoiachin                             | 2 Kings 24    | BAD      |                                       |               |         |
| Zedekiah                               | 2 Kings 24-25 | BAD      |                                       |               |         |
| <b>Babylonian Captivity - 70 years</b> |               |          |                                       |               |         |



- 7. Verses 23-31 deliver great hope for the faithful few. God promises to make a new covenant with his people. What are the main features of this covenant?**
- 8. Why would the promise of a Shepherd, styled as a new David (v.23) be particularly encouraging to the exiles? (see also 2 Samuel 7:12-16)**
- 9. When reading Ezekiel 34, one can't help but think about Jesus' statement "I am the Good Shepherd." Read John 10:11-18. How does Jesus' compare to the bad shepherds? How does he reflect the promises that God makes at the end of Ezekiel 34?**

**10. The Exiles finally had a reason to hope based not on the foolish promises of false prophets (Jeremiah 28), but on the promises of the living God! Where do we sometimes foolishly seek to find our hope?**

## **Prayers**

---

Pray for Cam, Katrina and Peyton Harte. Pray for Cam as he heads up Children's Ministry, including KOS (Kids on Sunday), Primary Scripture, Alive (lunch-time Christian group at Miranda North Public School), Homework Club, Children's Thursday night programs, Breakfast Club and Kids' Clubs.

Pray for Jess Moran as she oversees our Crèche and Playtime programs. We pray for energy and enthusiasm as she looks after this age group as well as providing support and encouragement for the parents.

Pray for Geoff and Liz, Johanna, Will, Tom and Zoe Robson and their work with Christian Union in Canterbury University, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Pray for Rob and Jo, Lili, and Jemma Copland. Pray for Rob's work as the Anglican Chaplain at the University of Wollongong and for his work as Campus Director of the University Bible Group.

Pray for our ongoing and various Children's, Youth, and Young Adults Ministries; that God would be using the leaders and volunteers to sow seeds and help people grow into mature and loving relationships with Jesus. Pray that this would be a great witness to the wider community.

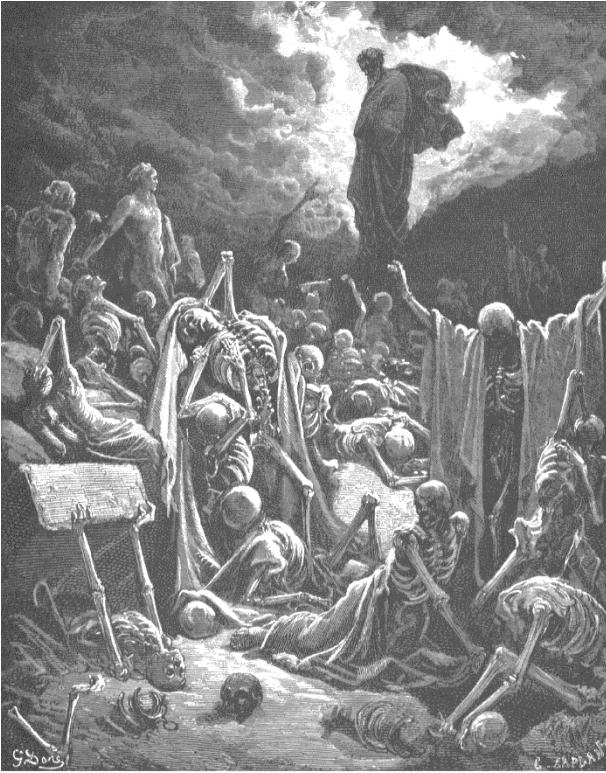
Pray that St Luke's as a community would be a welcoming family to the new person who walks through our doors, as well as the person who's been walking through our doors for many years. Pray that God would help us to love the people as he first loved us. Give St Luke's a spirit of hospitality, care and inclusivity.

## Study 7 Old Habits, New Hearts

*Old Habits, New Hearts*  
*Ezekiel 36:16-37:28*

### Discuss

*What is the most drastic or dramatic change you have made in your life?*



“Valley of Dry Bones” by Gustave Dore  
Source: Accordance Gallery of Bible Art

### **Read Ezekiel 36:16-37:28**

**1. What initial thoughts, questions or insights arise from the passage?**

### **Investigate and apply Ezekiel 36:16-33**

**2. What is God’s rationale for why he is going to act in saving his chosen people?**

- **What do you think he means by this?**

**3. How is God acting “for the sake of his holy name” a source of encouragement for us when we mess things up?**

**4. When we look at things like the Royal Commission into Institutional Childhood Abuse, why does a passage like this point to the foolishness of Christians who claim they covered things up to “*protect the name/reputation of the church*”**

**5. Read verses 24-32. Do a count, how many “I” statements are there, concerning God’s commitment to his people, compared to “you” statements that require something of them?**

**6. How do God's promises here in Chapter 36 relate to his promises to his people in Chapter 34? (see 36:37 in particular)**

**Read Ezekiel 37**

**7. 37:1-14 is arguably the most famous vision in Ezekiel. How do you think this vision fits in as a complement to what he has been saying in the latter half of Chapter 36?**

- **Looking back over the whole of our Ezekiel studies, how is this an answer to their predicament.**

- 8. 37:15-17 sees Ezekiel enacting another physical parable. This time taking two sticks, one called ‘Ephraim’s stick’ represents Joseph and the house of Israel (the Northern tribes, defeated in 722BC by the Assyrians, and the other represents Judah and the Israelites associated with him (Jerusalem, which we’ve just seen conquered in 586BC). Verses 18-23 unpack a picture of a new Jerusalem where all Jewish exiles will find a home. Is that all you think it points to?**
- 9. Verses 24-28 really consolidate the messianic connection to Ezekiel’s promise. Reintroducing the “Davidic King” mentioned previously in Chapter 34. What four everlasting features does Ezekiel promise?**
- 10. How is Jesus the fulfilment of the new life that God promises his people? (See also Romans 8:10-11, 2 Corinthians 5:17) Is this only a future promise?**
- 11. How might a deep confidence in God’s promises reshape the way we approach our current circumstances?**

## Prayers

---

Pray for our Student Ministers Russ Denten, Amani Kazogolo and Isaac Shumack as they join us on Sundays while studying at Moore College during the week.

Pray for Sharyn as Office Administrator and Eddie as assistant bookkeeper. Pray for Lisa and Gabby as office assistants.

Pray for David, Kathryn and Reuben Luis. Pray for David as Campus Director of Geelong Christian Union at the Deakin University Campus in Victoria.

Pray for Peter, Katharine, Noah and Atticus Yock. Pray as they work amongst the students at the campus of Griffith University.

Pray for Kylie Zietsch and her work at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa.

Praise God for our Bible Study leaders and for their faithful work in teaching and ministering to us throughout the term.

Pray for our witness to families that bring their children along to Thursday Children's groups, Kids' Clubs, and Friday Youth groups. Pray that church families would be given opportunities to befriend families who don't come to church, and that hearts may be softened to the gospel.

Pray for our witness to our local community – especially as more units are developed and more people move into the area. Pray for opportunities to connect with our community.

# BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM – TERM 3 2019

| Week commencing                  |                                | Reading Plan  | Page Number |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <i>29<sup>th</sup> July</i>      | 1.The Introduction             | Ezekiel 1     | 8           |
| <i>5<sup>th</sup> August</i>     | Global Mission week            |               | 14          |
| <i>12<sup>th</sup> August</i>    | 2. Ezekiel’s Commissioning     | Ezekiel 2-3   | 15          |
| <i>19<sup>th</sup> August</i>    | 3. Judgement & hope            | Ezekiel 4-5   | 20          |
| <i>26<sup>th</sup> August</i>    | 4. The meat in the pot         | Ezekiel 11    | 26          |
| <i>2<sup>nd</sup> September</i>  | 5. The Watchman                | Ezekiel 33    | 32          |
| <i>9<sup>th</sup> September</i>  | 6. Warning for false Shepherds | Ezekiel 34    | 38          |
| <i>16<sup>th</sup> September</i> | 7. Old Habits, New Hearts      | Ezekiel 36-37 | 43          |
| <i>23<sup>rd</sup> September</i> | Social                         |               |             |