Ezekiel 47: Growth Group Guide

SCRIPTURE READING QUESTIONS

Before diving into the group discussion, consider these four questions as you read the text:

- **What does this passage say about God, who He is, and what He does (Father, Son, and Spirit)?**
- **What does this passage teach me about me?**
- **What comfort/challenge can I take away from this passage?**
- **How will I respond or live differently because of what I've read?**

PART 1: THE FOUNDATION

Loving God's People (The Community Lens) In Ezekiel 47, the life-giving river flows out from under the threshold of the temple, bringing healing and fresh water wherever it goes. In the second half of the chapter, God commands that the land be divided as an inheritance not only for the tribes of Israel, but also for the foreigners residing among them (Ezekiel 47:22, CSB). Our "One New Family" identity means removing worldly barriers and ensuring that all who belong to Christ are welcomed into full inclusion, dignity, and inheritance.

- **Key Question:** "How are you pursuing authentic community with other believers right now?"
- **Key Question:** "What gets in the way of community with other believers?"

Looking to God's Word (The Truth Lens) This chapter puts our ultimate "Wealth in Christ" on display through the vision of the temple river. Where the river flows, dead waters are made fresh, trees yield fruit every month, and leaves bring healing (Ezekiel 47:9–12, CSB). Our identity is secure because Jesus is the ultimate source of living water, transforming our spiritual deadness into vibrant, fruit-bearing life.

- **Key Question:** "How is God's Word challenging you?"
- **Key Question:** "What can you do to prioritize God's Word?"

PART 2: THE WALK

Listening to God's Voice (The Prayer Lens) The heavenly guide leads Ezekiel deeper into the waters step-by-step—first ankle-deep, then knee-deep, then waist-deep, and finally into a river deep enough to swim in (Ezekiel 47:3–5, CSB). Walking in the Spirit involves stepping deeper into prayer, surrendering our own control, and allowing the river of God's Spirit to carry and direct our lives.

- **Key Question:** "How is God directing you?"
- **Key Question:** "What do you need to quiet in your life to hear God better?"

Living Sent (The Mission Lens) The vision emphasizes that "everything will live where the river goes" (Ezekiel 47:9, CSB). As the temple of the Holy Spirit, we are called to be conduits of this life-giving river. Prioritizing "sending capacity over seating capacity" means stepping into the dry, broken, and "dead" spaces of our everyday lives to carry Christ's healing, gospel hope, and restoration.

- **Key Question:** "What everyday opportunity have you used to point someone to Jesus?"
- **Key Question:** "What opportunities did you miss to tell someone about Jesus?"

GROUP PRAYER & SUMMARY

- **Closing Thought:** Ezekiel 47 demonstrates that God's presence is not a stagnant pool meant to be contained, but a overflowing river of life meant to bring healing, transformation, and inclusion to a dead and broken world.
- **Final Action:** Identify one area in your spiritual life or daily walk where you are staying in the "ankle-deep" shallows, and make a conscious choice this week to step out into deeper trust and surrender to the Holy Spirit.

PAGE 3: FACILITATOR CHEAT SHEET

The Structural Lens

Indicative vs. Imperative: The theological structure rests on the glorious **Indicative** that life flows from God's presence—the river flows from the temple and supernatural healing occurs wherever it goes (v. 1–12). The implicit **Imperative** is to step into the water, yield to its depth, and extend that life-giving inheritance to others (v. 22). Remind the group that we do not generate spiritual life or healing on our own; our mission is simply to step into the current of what God is already doing.

Facilitation Tips

- **Progressive Depth (Verses 3–5):** Group members often find the measuring of the water levels striking. Ask: "Are you content wade in ankle-deep faith where you feel in control, or are you willing to dive into deep waters where you must rely entirely on God?"
- **Inclusion of Foreigners (Verses 21–23):** Highlight how revolutionary this mandate was for ancient Israel. Connect this to the New Testament truth in Ephesians 2 that Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility to make one new humanity. Ask: "Who in our lives or community might feel like an 'outsider' that God is calling us to welcome as family?"

Leader Insights

- **Community:** The equitable division of land to resident aliens (v. 22–23) shows that gospel community is radically inclusive and protective of the vulnerable.
- **Truth:** Jesus explicitly fulfills the image of Ezekiel 47 in John 7:37–38, promising that whoever believes in Him will have streams of living water flowing from within them. The "Truth Lens" anchors this vision in the person and work of Christ.
- **Prayer:** Surrendering to the river requires relinquishing our footing. Prayer is the practical posture of letting go of human self-reliance and letting the Spirit direct our path.
- **Mission:** The river flows directly into the Dead Sea (the Arabah) and turns the salty water fresh (v. 8). This shows our "sending capacity": Christians are sent precisely into the most desolate, culturally "dead" places to display gospel renewal.