

A PEOPLE BECOMING: A NEW HEART, A NEW HOME

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, October 26, 2025

Sermon Passage: Ezekiel 36:26-28

Pastor Justin Lett

FACILITATING COMMUNITY

At New Hope Hermitage, we strive for people to come to Jesus, become more like Jesus, and be who Jesus intended them to be. While biblical worship and teaching are of the utmost importance, we know that biblical community is where life transformation occurs mostly. A true community isn't just a place to talk about faith—it's a place to live it out together as we seek for Hermitage to look more like Heaven.

As a leader, your role is to model care and consistency and facilitate discussion. You don't need to be perfect; you just need to be present and willing to go first to build something deeper.

What patterns should I incorporate into my life to help foster a sense of community?

- **Pray.** Pray for the Spirit to move during your group time and in the lives of the people in your group.
- **Prepare.** Listen to the sermon and allow the Spirit to work in and through you. Afterward, take the time to answer the five questions on your own.
- **Presence.** Reach out with a quick text or call to check on someone or their family. Acknowledge important events such as birthdays, anniversaries, new jobs, or answered prayers. Even a group text or card can make a significant impact.
- **Pursue.** Most importantly, walk with Jesus. Nothing can replace your personal relationship with Him.

One idea for this week...

- This week, find one way to encourage someone by telling them how you are seeing God work in their lives.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV), "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

LEADER GUIDE

This Week's Main Takeaway

The people of Judah were in exile—broken, banished, and burdened by their rebellion. Ezekiel, the prophet to the exiles, speaks not just of judgment, but of hope. God promised not only to bring His people back to their land but to bring their hearts back to Him.

This promise wasn't just for ancient Israel. It echoes through the corridors of time, fulfilled ultimately in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It's for us.

This Week's Memory Verse

Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV), "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about *God*?

God does not just clean up the old heart; He gives us a new one.

In this passage, we see that the Lord will circumcise the hearts of his people so they may live in obedience. This radical new creation was necessary to break the people's bondage to the cycle of sin and retribution. Regeneration is a secret act of God by which he imparts new spiritual life to dead hearts (CSB Study Bible Notes). This cannot be achieved by human effort, but rather by Divine initiative. In verse 28, we read, "I will be your God." The only way for us to be His people and for Him to be our God is *through Christ*. What God declares in Ezekiel was accomplished at the cross of Christ and will ultimately be experienced in the new Jerusalem (Exalting Jesus in Ezekiel).

How do we see God's love in Him changing our hearts?

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

With our new heart, we can now participate in the Divine nature.

As one commentator puts it, we do not need to be cleansed but also changed (Exalting Jesus in Ezekiel). When God places His Spirit in His people, they will be able to follow His decrees and keep His laws (CSB Study Bibles Notes). The implementation of a new heart and a new spirit will require removing the heart of stone and replacing it with a heart of flesh (Holman Commentary, Ezekiel). This is not behavior modification; this is transformation from the inside out. God will not only give us new affections, but new abilities.

What is the difference between behavior modification and heart transformation? How does this play out in our everyday lives?

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

The Land of the Promise offers great life in Christ.

God's promise to His people reached its climax in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Salvation is not just information but also transformation. The promise of this passage reminds us that God does not leave His people in the condition that He gathers them. He gives them a new heart, and He places His Spirit within them (Exalting Jesus in Ezekiel).

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

God is calling us to embrace this new heart and life.

The heart surgery God performs produces a change of desire in His people, which leads to a change in deeds. Having been purified and now empowered by His presence, God's people follow His statutes and observe His ordinances (Exalting Jesus in Ezekiel).

How does obedience follow submission?

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God's Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

Has your heart grown cold and calloused? Are you living a life that displays a changed heart?

Sources:

Holman Old Testament Commentary, Ezekiel, Volume 17 (Holman Reference)

CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)

Exalting Jesus in Ezekiel (Holman Publishers)