

"For the Sake of My Name."

November 8, 2026 | Text: Ezekiel 20:1-44 | Pastor Bob Erbig
Sermon Series: "Ezekiel: Glory Departs and Glory Returns."

Small Group Discussion Guide

KEY QUESTION: *What happens when we represent God's name poorly?*
BIG IDEA: *God acts for the sake of his name—so rescued rebels are called to represent it well.*

Read Ezekiel 20:1-44 (or selected sections) aloud together. Plan roughly 60 minutes.

Opening Icebreakers (10 minutes)

- What does your name mean, or what does your family name stand for? Share a story behind it.
- Think of a business, team, or church whose behavior changed how you saw the name it represents. What happened?

Discussion Questions (40 minutes)

- **Reflection (20:1-4):** The elders come to inquire of the Lord, and he refuses to be inquired of. Why would God refuse, and what does that reveal about asking for guidance while holding on to idols?
- **Reflection (20:30-32):** The people say, "Let us be like the nations." Where do you feel that pull today (the "vibe shift")? What makes it hard to stay grounded in God's Word?
- **Reflection (20:9, 14, 22):** Three times God acts "for the sake of my name." Why is it good news that God's mercy is tied to his own name and not to our performance?
- **Application (20:12):** God gave his people the Sabbath as a sign of rest. What would it look like to build real rest into your week, and how can we help caregivers rest through our respite ministry?
- **Reflection (20:33-38):** God will be king with "a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" and make them "pass under the rod." How do you see both his discipline and his care for his people in these verses?
- **Application (Gospel):** We were all rebels in Egypt, rescued by a mighty hand. How does knowing your own story of rescue change how you represent Christ to your neighbors and coworkers?
- **Application (2027 initiatives):** Which outreach or missions opportunity (Veterans ministry, First Fridays, a lemonade stand, a street fair, global missions) could you join this year, and what is your first step?
- **Challenge:** We bear two names: citizen of an earthly nation and child of God. Where is the gap between the name we carry and how we live, and what needs to change?

Concluding Prayer Challenge (10 minutes)

Pray in pairs or as a group: "Lord, I have represented your name poorly by ____, and I thank you for acting for the sake of your name." Close by reading Psalm 115:1 together.

- **This week:** Sign up to serve in one outreach or ministry opportunity, and set aside one hour of intentional rest.
- **Pray:** about your end-of-year gift: "What is God calling me to give this year?"