

**LESSON 12—May 23, 2021**

**Spring Quarter 2021 Theme:**  
 Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant  
**Unit III: Courageous Prophets of Change**

**Lesson Titles:**

**Take Responsibility**  
 (Faith Pathway Bible Studies)  
**Ezekiel: Street Preacher to the Exiles**  
 (Townsend Press Sunday School Commentary)

**Devotional Reading:**  
 Psalm 147

**Background Scriptures:**  
 Ezekiel 18

**Print Passages:**  
 Ezekiel 18:1-9, 30-32

**Key Verse(s):**

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.  
 (Ezekiel 18:4, KJV)

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"Everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die."  
 (Ezekiel 18:4, NIV)

► **Questions to Consider:**

1. Why did the people in exile believe God was punishing them unjustly?
2. What individual actions did Ezekiel describe in his profile description of a righteous man?
3. What did Ezekiel tell the people that they needed to do?

► **Lesson Context:**

- Ezekiel was being trained for the priesthood in Judah, but during the dark days of exile in Babylon, God called Ezekiel to be a prophet.
- During his ministry to the exiles in Babylon, the prophet addressed the misinterpretation of a well-known proverb that placed the blame for the exiles' suffering on the sins of their parents.
- Ezekiel warns that God holds each person responsible for his or her own sins and that favor with God only comes through repentance and obedience.

► **Lesson Aims:**

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Examine behavior in which we blame others as the cause.
- Commit to being responsible for your own behavior.
- Engage in responsible behavior that finds favor with God.

## ► Lesson Outlines/Key Points:

### I. Personal Accountability (Ezekiel 18:1-4)

Key Point 1: The people believed that their difficult times and punishment were due to the sins of their ancestors.

Key Point 2: Every guilty person will receive just punishment for their own sins.

### II. Personal Integrity (Ezekiel 18:5-9)

Key Point 1: Ezekiel gives an example of a righteous man doing right.

Key Point 2: God holds every living soul personally responsible for his or her own sin.

### III. Personal Responsibility (Ezekiel 18:30-32)

Key Point 1: Ezekiel emphasized that each person is responsible for his or her own relationship with God.

Key Point 2: God offered repentance as an avenue of escape from judgment.

## ► Lesson Summary:

- Ezekiel emphasized that each person is responsible for his or her own relationship with God.
- We should personally examine our own lives, identify our own sins, take ownership of them, and repent and live right before God every day.
- God requires personal holiness from every believer that is independent of anyone else's actions.

## What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. How does knowing that God holds you accountable for your own sin affect your attitude regarding obeying the Scriptures?

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2. Do you think the church places adequate emphasis on preaching and teaching the necessity of holy living? Explain briefly.

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3. Why must the need for personal spiritual transformation be taught?

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**As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:**

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