

Study Guide – January 11, 2026

Title: “A New Heart for God’s Holy Name”

Text: Ezekiel 36:22–38

1. Big Picture: What This Service Was About

This service was built around a single breathtaking truth:

God saves His people – not because they deserve it – but because His name is holy.

From the opening songs about God’s holiness, to the reading of the Ten Commandments, to corporate confession, to the sermon in Ezekiel, everything centered on one reality:

God is holy. We are not. And God Himself must act if we are to be saved.

This passage explains **why** God saves, **how** God saves, and **what** God produces when He saves.

2. Setting the Stage: Why Ezekiel 36 Matters

Israel had broken God’s covenant again and again.

They were removed from the land.

Their cities were ruined.

God’s name was mocked among the nations.

They carried God’s name, but they did not live like God’s people.

So the nations looked at Israel and concluded:

“Their God must be weak. Their God must be powerless.”

That was the problem God was about to fix.

3. God’s Motive for Saving

Ezekiel 36:22–23

“It is not for your sake... but for the sake of my holy name.”

God makes this crystal clear:

He is not saving Israel because they repented well.
He is not saving them because they tried harder.
He is not saving them because they cleaned themselves up.

He is saving them because **His reputation is on the line.**

God's name represents:

- His faithfulness
- His power
- His holiness
- His ability to keep His people

If God's people remain broken, rebellious, and scattered, then the world concludes God cannot save. So God acts **to defend the glory of His own name.**

God shows grace for His renown.

This is deeply comforting:

Your salvation does not rest on your strength — it rests on God's holiness.

4. The Problem: Why Israel Couldn't Obey

Israel had God's law.
Israel had God's promises.
Israel had God's land.

But they had the wrong heart.

They wanted:

- Pagan riches
- Pagan pleasures
- Pagan gods
- Pagan power

Their hearts were spiritually dead, hard, and rebellious. That's why the covenant kept breaking.

The issue was never information.
The issue was transformation.

5. God's Solution: The New Covenant

Ezekiel 36:24–27

Notice how many times God says “**I will**”:

“I will gather you...
I will cleanse you...
I will give you a new heart...
I will put my Spirit within you...
I will cause you to walk in my statutes...”

This is the gospel in Old Testament form.

God does **everything**:

- He brings them back
- He washes them
- He changes them
- He empowers them
- He keeps them faithful

This is not self-reformation.
This is divine resurrection.

6. What Does “A New Heart” Mean?

“I will remove the heart of stone... and give you a heart of flesh.”

A heart of stone:

- Cannot feel
- Cannot love
- Cannot obey

- Cannot repent

A heart of flesh:

- Feels conviction
- Loves God
- Desires holiness
- Wants obedience

God doesn't just forgive sinners — He **recreates** them.

This is why Christianity is not behavior modification.
It is spiritual rebirth.

7. Why Obedience Now Becomes Possible

God does not say:

“Try harder to obey.”

He says:

“I will cause you to walk in my statutes.”

The Holy Spirit inside God's people:

- Creates new desires
- Gives new power
- Produces real obedience

This is why grace never produces lawlessness.
Grace produces holiness.

8. The Result: God's Glory in a Restored People

Ezekiel 36:33–38

The ruined land becomes like Eden.

The broken cities are rebuilt.

The people multiply.

The nations look and say:

“The Lord did this.”

That’s the goal:

Not Israel’s fame — God’s.

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Understanding

1. Why does God say He is saving Israel if not “for their sake”?
2. What does it mean for God’s name to be “profaned” among the nations?
3. What are the “I will” statements teaching us about grace?

Heart Application

4. Where are you tempted to believe God loves you because you are good rather than because He is holy?
5. How does knowing God keeps His people change how you fight sin?

Gospel Connection

6. How does Ezekiel 36 point forward to Christ and the New Covenant?
7. Why is Jesus necessary for a new heart to exist?

Memory Verse

“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.” — Ezekiel 36:26

Big Truth to Hold Onto

God saves sinners so that the world will see how holy, powerful, and faithful He truly is.