

Sunday School Lesson, November 23, 2025

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Lesson—The Medium is the Message¹

Text: Ezekiel 33:7-16a

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Explore the role of repentance in restoring the relationship with God.
2. Rejoice in the knowledge that God does not want to punish.
3. Turn from sin and the power of evil and toward all that is good, kind, and faithful.

Why This Lesson Matters: It is possible that breaking from the mistakes of the past will enable a person to get a fresh start toward a better life. As God's Sentinel, Ezekiel gave the people a clear warning so that they would have an opportunity to turn from their sins, do what was right, and find life.

Key Verse: *So thou, old son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the House of Israel; Therefore thou shalt hear the word at thy mouth, and warn them from me. (Ezekiel 33:7, KJV)*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. Divine Appointment and Sacred Duty (Ezekiel 33:7-9)
3. The Heart of God Revealed (vv. 7-9)
4. Justice, Repentance, and Restoration (vv. 12-16a)

III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

Ezekiel 33 is a complex chapter that contains various themes, primarily dealing with the consequences of Judah's disobedience. The chapter consists of two major sections: verses 2 - 9 and 10 - 20. Both sections are cast as first-person divine speech addressed to Ezekiel, who must then convey Yahweh's words to his fellow exiles in Babylon.

From the time Ezekiel was commissioned as Yahweh's prophet to the House of Israel in 593 BC until the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, Ezekiel worked to dismantle the Israelites' long-held beliefs about their God. Those beliefs centered around Yahweh's promises to the Israelites, for example, the covenant blessings at

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

Sinai, God's absolute commitment to the Davidic dynasty, and the permanence of Jerusalem as the site of Yahweh's temple. However, the covenant demanded obedience to God. Sin would not go unpunished by God. At the direction of God, Ezekiel also prophesied that God's people would not remain in exile forever. In time, God would grant the opportunity to choose a new life.

IV. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Ezekiel: A prophet of the Babylonian exile whose utterances represent a significant portion of the major prophetic writings. His name means "God strengthens."

V. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

<i>Deliver</i>	<i>Delivered</i>	<i>Iniquity</i>	<i>Transgressions</i>
<i>Turn</i>	<i>Watchman</i>		

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?) Play

- Throughout history God has been more than patient with his beloved people, which also includes each of us in this current day and disposition of the new covenant. However, we should be careful and mindful to know that God is righteous and just and disobedience to him brings about consequences. Are there areas of disobedience in our lives that will demand God's righteousness prevail question mark.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*