EAT THIS SCROLL
Your Mission, Should You Choose To Accept It
September 11, 18, 25

BIG IDEA:
This is a “Promoting The Need For Evangelism” series. “Eating the Scroll” is a metaphor for Ezekiel to listen to God’s words and accept his assignment to speak his words to disobedient Israel who have been taken into captivity because of their disobedience to God. Ezekiel is to speak whether they listen or not. Likewise, we need to "eat the scroll" and accept our mission from God to tell our unbelieving friends about Jesus. This series will be based on the first 3 chapters of Ezekiel’s call to be a prophet.

KEY VERSES: Ezekiel 1:1, 3:1-4

1 In my thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

2 And he said to me, “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel.”  
3 So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

4 Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

5 He then said to me: “Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them.

SERIES IMAGE:
Eat This Scroll: your mission, should you choose to accept it, some variation of the Mission Impossible classic logo

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO IDEAS TO SHOW ON SEPTEMBER 4TH:
Dan gets phone call “your mission, should you choose to accept it” – eats paper scroll, does something, then phone booth blows up or something behind him
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uaycln0M5KY
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls3dh2Pgbk0
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k55NuWQCh78
OVERVIEW:

Sept 11  **LOOK**  (Brian)

MAIN IDEA: God is real, he’s in control, he realizes this world is a mess, and **he has a plan** to fix it.

Ezekiel had a vision of four crazy looking creatures, representing the mess of this world (God’s people had been taken to Babylonia in 586 B.C.), and then a vision of the God who is above it all (above the “vault”).

vs. 1 “the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God”

Vs. 4-5 I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures.

vs. 22 Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked something like a vault, sparkling like crystal, and awesome.

Vs. 25 Then there came a voice from **above the vault** over their heads as they stood with lowered wings.

vs. 28 “This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.”

Service Ideas:

- **OPENER:**
- **WORSHIP:** LIFECHANGE STORY in worship set of person’s life who has been changed (baptism, support of congregation, etc.)
- **WELCOME:** 2-3 minutes teaching segment by Dan at welcome about “the church will do what you can’t do” strategy, and to invite people (slides, pics, etc)
- **PRE-MESSAGE:** Shoot “Dan on the street” video of him quickly walking up to people FAST and giving them a dollar if they can answer a question about the Bible as a take off of Billy on the Street
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xNypj2Cihk
- **COMMUNION:** “Come Thou Fount” – “prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love”
- Make sure sermon slides side by/side
Sept 18 LISTEN (Dan) (or Brian videotaped) (No Brian Moll)

MAIN IDEA: God has a plan for this messed up world, and WE IS IT.

God tell Ezekiel to stand on his feet and receive his assignment – to “eat the scroll” and hear his words then go and speak those words to an unbelieving people

Ezekiel 2:1-8
He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.” As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.
3 He said: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. 4 The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says.’ 5 And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them. 6 And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briers and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or be terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people. 7 You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. 8 But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious people; open your mouth and eat what I give you.”

Service Ideas:
• ***Must decide if I am going to video myself preaching and show it on Sunday or Dan speaks (?) * Wedding is that Saturday, so video is highly unlikely unless it is a shorter, hybrid kinda thing = me + dan bats cleanup afterwards
• OPENER:
• WORSHIP: LIFECHANGE STORY in worship set of person’s life who has been changed (baptism, support of congregation, etc.)
• WELCOME: 2-3 minutes teaching segment by Dan at welcome about “the church will do what you can’t do” strategy, and to invite people (slides, pics, etc)
• PRE-MESSAGE: Film Matt doing plug about the campus at iFly KOP https://www.iflyworld.com/king-of-prussia/ (as a way to promote evangelism)
• COMMUNION:

Sept 25 LISTEN (Brian)

MAIN IDEA: God’s plan is for us to go to our friends and speak God’s word to them,
whether they listen or not, WHICH WILL MAKE US AFRAID, but we must persist.

God tells Ezekiel, tells him to eat the scroll, then go speak to his fellow Israelites and reminds Ezekiel that he will be held accountable for speaking, not them believing.

Ezekiel 3:1-9
And he said to me, “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel.” 2 So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.
3 Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.
4 He then said to me: “Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them. 5 You are not being sent to a people of obscure speech and strange language, but to the people of Israel— 6 not to many peoples of obscure speech and strange language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent you to them, they would have listened to you. 7 But the people of Israel are not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for all the Israelites are hardened and obstinate. 8 But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. 9 I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people.”

Service Ideas:
• OPENER:
• WORSHIP: LIFECCHANGE STORY in worship set of person’s life who has been changed (baptism, support of congregation, etc.)
• PRE-WELCOME: Carpool Karaoke with Eric and Eric and Dan (as a way to plug the need for Arts volunteers?)
• WELCOME: 2-3 minutes teaching segment by Dan at welcome about “the church will do what you can’t do” strategy, and to invite people (slides, pics, etc)
• FEATURE SONG: Here I Go Again – Casting Crowns – yes, cheesy, but love that song, (lyrics on slides) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j61g8RNlxs
• COMMUNION:
• PROMOTIONAL VIDEO: for next week’s launch of KIDS’ MATTER series