



BK WEEKEND

January 4 & 5, 2020

Ezekiel Gave Hope (Lesson 1)

Ezekiel 37

Unit: Hope in Exile

Unit Bible Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Bible Story: Ezekiel was with God's people when they were taken as prisoners to Babylon. God gave Ezekiel a vision. In this vision, God took Ezekiel to a valley. The valley was filled with old, dry bones. As Ezekiel walked through the valley, God asked, "Can these bones come to life?"

Ezekiel said, "God, only You know if these bones can come to life."

Then God said, "Talk to these bones for Me. Say, 'Dry bones, hear what God says: I will give you breath, and you will come to life. I will give you a body. Then you will know that I am God.'" Ezekiel began talking to the bones. All of a sudden, there was a rattling noise. The bones were moving and coming together like God had said!

Then God said, "Talk to the breath for Me. Say, 'This is what God says: Breath, come into these bones! Make them alive!'" Ezekiel talked to the breath, and the breath went into the bones! The bones came to life, and a big army stood up in front of Ezekiel.

Then God said, "My people are like these bones. They think they are dried up. They do not think they have a future. I want you to talk to My people for Me." God told Ezekiel what to say to the people of Israel. "Say: I am going to bring My people back to the land of Israel. I will give them life in their own land, and they will know that I am God."

God told Ezekiel to pick up two sticks. The first stick was for the people of Judah, and the second stick was for the people of Israel. Ezekiel held the two sticks together in one hand so they were like one stick. God said He was going to bring Judah and Israel back together. They would not be two separate nations anymore. They would be one nation again.

God said that His people were also going to get a new king! This new king would be like a shepherd. God promised that His people would go home to their land, and they would never be taken away again. "I will be with them," God said. "I will be their God, and they will be My people."

Questions/Discussion

- 1) Why did God's people think they were like the bones God showed Ezekiel? How are we like the bones?
- 2) What does God give us when we turn from sin and trust in Jesus?

Christ Connection: Apart from Jesus, we are like the dry bones Ezekiel saw. God showed Ezekiel His power to make dead people alive. We see God's power at the cross. Jesus died to save sinners. God raised Jesus from the dead, and He gives us eternal life.

Family Activity: Take your family to a museum (or look in a book) and see the skeletons that are on display. Discuss the amazing message God had give His people by bringing dry bones to life.

Prayer: *Lord, even when Your people were far from home in the land of Babylon, You were with them. You gave them hope through Your prophets. God, help us know You are near. We look forward to one day being home with You forever. Amen.*



Lesson Summary: Ezekiel had a tough job: ministering to people who had rejected God and suffered the consequences. The exiled people of Judah were eager to blame God for their circumstances. “It’s not fair!” they argued. (See Ezek. 18:25.) Ezekiel told the people that they were at fault for their exile; their faithlessness had provoked God’s wrath. The people were getting what they deserved. “I take no pleasure in anyone’s death,” God said. “So repent and live!” (Ezek. 18:32).

God gave Ezekiel a vision. In this vision, God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones. The bones represented Israel. Ezekiel prophesied that God would put tendons, flesh, and skin on the bones. He would put breath in them so they would come to life. Ezekiel encouraged the exiles. Apart from God, they were dead. But God was offering them life. He would restore their future. “My dwelling place will be with them,” God said. “I will be their God, and they will be my people” (Ezek. 37:27).

We too are dead in our sin. (Eph. 2:1) Sin separates us from God because He is holy. We are apart from God’s presence. But God does not delight in our death. He is patient and wants us to repent and live! Hundreds of years after Ezekiel died, God’s presence came to His people through Jesus Christ, Immanuel—meaning, “God with us.” Jesus is the source of life; He offers us living water. (John 4:10,14) If we do not drink of it, we will be like the dry bones. No life will be in us.

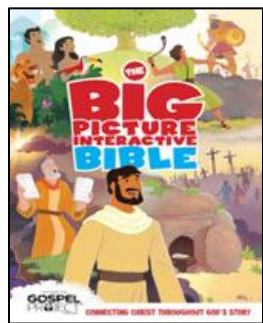
As you talk with your kids, help kids understand that Jesus changes everything. He brings life to the spiritually dead. God saves us by grace, making us alive with Christ through the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 2:4-5)

Unit Key Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

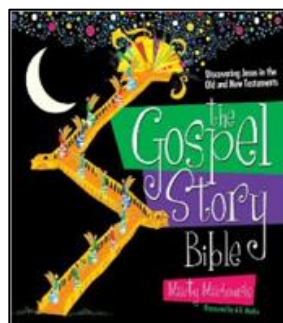
- Age 2 – 3: “...pray...give thanks...”
- Age 4 – 5: “...pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...”
- Grade K – 3: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God...”
- Preteen: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Preteen Daily Readings: This week’s (December 30) readings are: *No readings this week.*

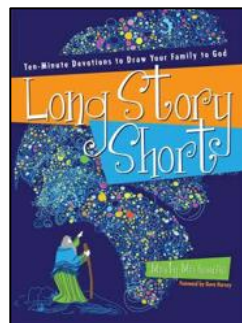
Family Devotional: Our desire is for kids to hear from the Bible first at home and then have the message be reinforced at church on the weekend. In addition to, or in lieu of the provided story, you can use these devotionals with your family. These can be purchased in the Berean Café.



Age 2-5, Page 138



Grade K-3, No Correlating Story



Grade 4-5, No Correlating Story