



# EZEKIEL GAVE HOPE



## EZEKIEL 37

### **Instructions**

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

### **Tell the Bible Story**

God had allowed the Babylonians to take over Judah. Now God's people were living in Babylon as slaves. Ezekiel the prophet had been taken with God's people to Babylon. Even in captivity, God gave Ezekiel visions so he could tell God's people about the future.

One day, God gave Ezekiel a vision. God led Ezekiel through a valley filled with old, dry bones. God asked Ezekiel, "Can these bones come to life?"

Ezekiel replied, "Lord God, only You know the answer to that question."

God said, "Speak to these bones for Me. Say, 'This is what God says: I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am God.'" Ezekiel spoke to the bones. Suddenly, there was a noise—a rattling sound. The bones were coming together: bones to bones, tendons to bones, flesh over bones, and skin over flesh. But there was no breath in the bones. God said, "Speak to the breath for Me. Say, This is what God says: Breath, come into these



bones so that they may live!” Ezekiel did what God said, and the breath entered the bones. They came to life, and a vast army stood before Ezekiel.

God said to Ezekiel, “These bones are like My people of Israel. I want you to speak to them for Me.” God told Ezekiel to say, “This is what God says: I am going to bring My people back to the land of Israel. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live.”

Then another message came to Ezekiel. God told Ezekiel to hold two sticks together in one hand so they would become one single stick. The first stick represented the kingdom of Judah, and the second stick represented the kingdom of Israel. God explained that His people would be one nation. They would have a new king to rule over them and guide them. God said, “My people will live forever in the land I gave to their ancestors.”

God would make a covenant of peace with His people forever. “I will be with them,” God said. “I will be their God, and they will be My people. Then everyone will know that I am the Lord.”

## 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.*

### **Discussion & Bible Skills - Older**

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to Ezekiel 37. Ask kids which kingdom Ezekiel prophesied to. (Judah) Remind kids that the Babylonians overtook Judah. Ezekiel was taken captive with God’s people, and he prophesied while he was in Babylon. Tape the Ezekiel name tag next to the list of Judah’s kings.

Ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

1. How do you think God’s people felt when they were taken to Babylon?

*Invite your kids to share how God’s people—taken far from their homes—probably felt scared, sorry, or alone. Emphasize God’s grace in giving His people a message of hope through Ezekiel.*

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2. How does this story change how you think about God's discipline of His people?  
*Remind your kids that even though discipline is hard, God uses discipline to teach us and change us. God does not abandon His people. He is with us and does everything for His glory and our good.*
  3. What does it mean to be "dead in sin"? How can people dead in sin come to life?  
*Guide your kids to discuss how sin separates people from God. Life comes from hearing and believing the Word of God, which tells us the good news that Jesus died for our sins.*

## SAY:

*Because of his vision from God, Ezekiel gave hope to God's people in Babylon. God hadn't abandoned them. In fact, God planned to bring His people home and give them new life.*

### **Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger**

Help kids find Ezekiel 37. Explain that Ezekiel is part of the Major Prophets division of the Old Testament. Challenge the kids to remember the difference between major and minor prophets. (the length of the books, not the importance) Then ask kids to state other books in the same division. (Isaiah–Daniel)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did God show Ezekiel?  
*A valley filled with bones, Ezek. 37:1-2*
2. What did God do with the bones?  
*Caused them to reconnect, grow flesh, and come back to life; Ezek. 37:4-10)*
3. What was God's message to His people?  
*God would bring them back to life and fill them with His Spirit, Ezek. 37:13-14*
4. When did this prophecy come true?  
*Guide your kids to think about the two different fulfillments of this prophecy. God did bring His people back to their land as He promised. Also, God sent Jesus to die for sin and rise again to give life to believers.*



5. What is our ultimate hope?

*Guide your kids to think about our hope for the future. We know God is faithful, and He has promised to send Jesus back to earth. At that time, all of the damage sin has caused will be undone. We will be completely free from sin in every way. No matter how bad things may seem, we know that Jesus is victorious over sin.*

6. When does our life with God start?

*Direct your kids to see that our new life with God starts right away. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and makes us new. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us and begin healing the damage sin causes. We gain God's power to love Him, obey Him, and share the gospel.*



**SAY:**

*God planned to bring His people home and give them new life. When we trust in Jesus, we are brought to life and given the Holy Spirit. Someday we will live with Jesus face to face. Jesus will perfectly restore the world to be our home forever.*