

January 17, 2020

Journey through
The Bible:
Ezekiel Gave
Hope

Ezekiel 37

Elementary

Memory Point:
God Will Restore

LESSON OVERVIEW

Pages 1-3 – Preschool and Elementary Lesson

Page 4-5 – Preschool Lesson Extras

Page 6-7 – Elementary Lesson Extras

A video to accompany the lesson will be posted on the church website.

Song links for the following kid's songs will also be provided.

- Give Me a "J"
- Our God
- All Hail the Power

PRESCHOOL MEMORY VERSE

I will give you a
new heart and put
a new spirit within
you.

Ezekiel 36:26

MEMORY VERSE

I will give you a new
heart and put a new
spirit within you; I will
remove your heart of
stone and give you a
heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

EZEKIEL GAVE HOPE

EZEKIEL 37

Key Verses

Ezekiel 37:1 - The hand of the LORD was on me, and He brought me out by His Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

Ezekiel 37:4-10 - He said to me, "Prophecy concerning these bones and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Lord GOD says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live. I will put tendons on you, make flesh grow on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you so that you come to life. Then you will know that I am Yahweh." So I prophesied as I had been commanded. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. As I looked, tendons appeared on them, flesh grew, and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man. Say to it: This is what the Lord GOD says: Breath, come from the four winds and breathe into these slain so that they may live!" So I prophesied as He commanded me; the breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.

Ezekiel 37:13-14 - You will know that I am Yahweh, My people, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I am Yahweh. I have spoken, and I will do it." This is the declaration of the LORD.

Ezekiel 37:15-16 - The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, take a single stick and write on it: Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him. Then take another stick and write on it: Belonging to Joseph—the stick of Ephraim—and all the house of Israel associated with him. Then join them together into a single stick so that they become one in your hand.

Ezekiel 37:27-28 - My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people. When My sanctuary is among them forever, the nations will know that I, Yahweh, sanctify Israel.

Intro

Instruct the kids to stand up and scatter themselves around the room. Name different things. If the thing you name is living, kids should move and dance; if non-living, they should freeze in place. Suggested things: cats, rocks, trees, clouds, lightbulbs, clocks, mushrooms, skeletons, humans.

The difference between living and non-living may not always be obvious. Trees don't move around, but they are living, and many machines do move, but they are non-living. Skeletons alone are not alive, but they are part of many animals that are. Today, we'll hear a Bible story where bones come back to life.



Teacher Thoughts

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.

Jesus changes that. He brings life to the spiritually dead. God saves us by grace, making us alive with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

LESSON

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."

APPLICATION POINT

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.

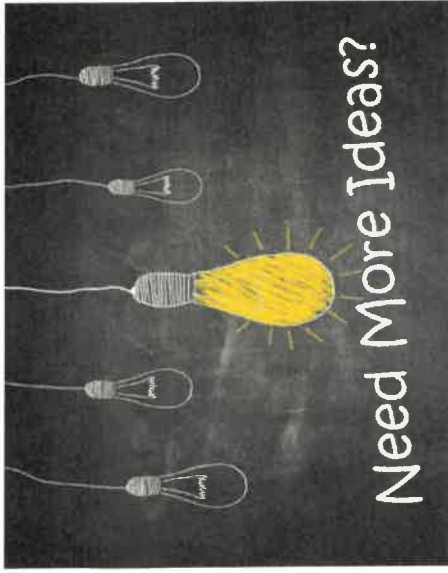
Review Questions

1. What did God show Ezekiel?
2. What did God do with the bones?
3. What was God's message to His people?
4. When did this prophecy come true?
5. What is our ultimate hope?
6. When does our life with God start?

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THE
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FOR KIDS



January

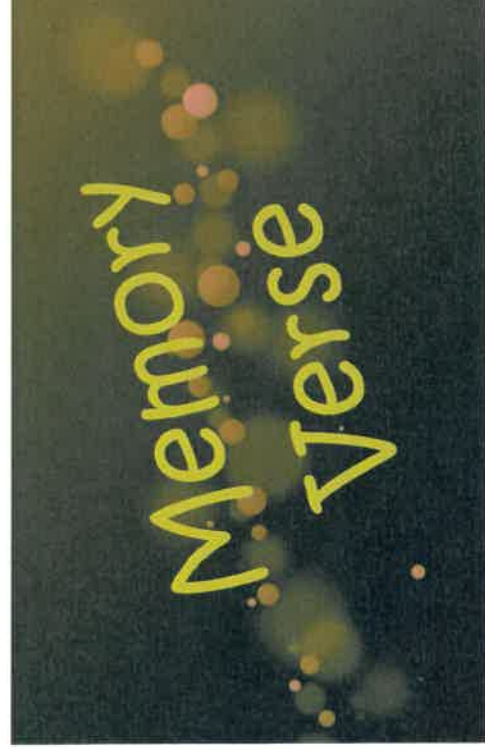
I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit within
you.

Optional Ideas to Reinforce the Lesson

- Teach children a version of the song "Dem Bones," pointing to the body parts named:
- "Ezekiel connected dem dry bones, Ezekiel connected dem dry bones, Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones, Now hear the Word of the Lord. Foot bone connected to the leg bone. Leg bone connected to the knee bone. Knee bone connected to the thigh bone. Thigh bone connected to the back bone. Back bone connected to the neck bone. Neck bone connected to the head bone. Now hear the Word of the Lord. Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around. Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around. Now hear the Word of the Lord."

Ezekiel 36:26

Review the verse together during snack time and then challenge children to say the verse while hopping on one foot. Can they say it while tapping their heart?



Though preschoolers may not understand the importance of the Bible, include "Bible stuff" throughout the lesson. Say that the story is from the Bible, hold up a Bible, and tell where the story is found in the Bible.

Ezekiel Gave Hope

Found in the Bible,
Old Testament,
Book of Ezekiel,
Chapter 37



I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.

Ezekiel 36:26

Write the verse on a piece of poster board (do 2-3 sets) and cut the poster board into puzzle-type pieces. Divide class into groups and have them work together to complete the puzzle. Say the verse together as a class when they finish.

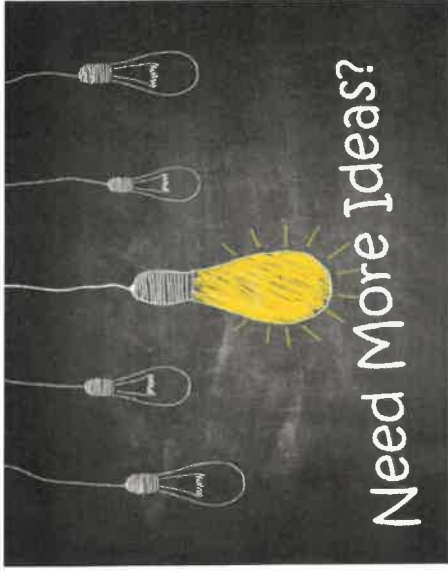
Hearts of Stone

Give each kid a sheet of construction paper. Provide glue and a few cups filled with small pebbles. Help the kids draw a heart shape on their paper and glue pebbles to the paper along the outline they drew. Then help kids write the memory verse in the center of their pebble hearts.

God planned to bring His people home and give them new life. Ezekiel wrote about this by saying that God would take people's hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh. Stone is cold and non-living. Flesh is warm and alive. Sin causes all the brokenness we experience, including the dead, stony hearts we are born with.

How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners. Through Jesus, God has provided a way for our dead, sinful hearts to be brought to life and filled with love for God.





Lesson Extras: Ezekiel Gave Hope

- Provide children with paper and pencils or markers. Have them write or draw a response to the following question: How did God plan to fix what sin had broken?
- In our story today, God told Ezekiel to command the breath to bring the bones back to life. God planned to bring His people home and give them new life. This story also showed a preview of what God was going to do in the future. Just as Adam's sin caused all people to be dead in sin, God was planning the way to bring people back to life. Jesus' perfect life, undeserved death, and miraculous resurrection made the way for us to have life with God again.

Bible Time

Each month, children will work on a section of books of the Bible, with the goal of memorizing the order of all 66 books during the year. The goal of this activity is that children will have a better understanding of how to use their Bibles on their own.

Books for January

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel



Using the Bible

How is it divided? Where do I find things? What does it mean that there are books, chapters, and verses? These are the types of questions we will seek to answer during Bible Time as we learn the order of the book and open the Word of God.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel are called the Major Prophets. Each book contains the words of God, spoken to His people through men who were called by Him.

Write the first letter of each of the books for this month on the board and see if you class can remember the names of the five books. Once the names are filled in, review the order together as a class.



I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

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CRAFT

Put Back Together

As you're working...

Our puzzles looked like broken pictures before we started. But you brought all the pieces back together into one picture! God showed Ezekiel that He could bring dry bones back together into a living body. God also promised to bring the people of Judah and Israel back together into one nation. God planned to bring His people home.



Supplies:

- Ezekiel papers cut into 10-12 pieces
- Baggies for kids puzzle pieces.

Instructions:

1. Prior to class, cut each picture into 10-12 "puzzle" pieces and place in a baggie.
2. Give each child a puzzle and have them try to put their "puzzle" of dry bones together to create the picture.