

Unit 15, Session 6

# Ezekiel Gave Hope

Ezekiel 37

Story Point: God planned to bring His people home and give them new life.

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."

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.

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."

God told Ezekiel to hold two sticks together in one hand so they would become one single stick. 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.

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.

## **EXPERIENCE** the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

• Use the coordinates to figure out Ezekiel's message to God's people in Babylon.

	Α	В	C
4	and	life	to
3	His	God	give
2	bring	them	people
1	new	home	planned

В3	C1	C4	A2
A3	C2	B1	Δ4
C3	B2	A1	B4

• What does this story teach us about God?

• What was God's plan for the future of His people?

#### **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.



• How does this story change how you think about God's discipline of His people?

• What does it mean to be "dead in sin"? How can people dead in sin come to life?

### **CHRIST CONNECTION**

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• Find 2 Chronicles 7:14 in your Bible and write the words below.

• Write a prayer to God, thanking God for the hope we have in Jesus. Acknowledge that He alone is our source of true life.

#### **READ THE WORD**

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

■ Ezekiel 18:21-23

☐ John 4:13-14

☐ Psalm 94:12-14

☐ John 1:4

☐ Romans 10:17

□ Colossians 2:3-4