



March 3, 2024

## EZEKIEL AND THE DRY BONES

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Has Good News for His People**SCRIPTURE:** [Ezekiel 37](#)**GOD'S BIG STORY:** God shows Ezekiel a vision reassuring the prophet that God still had good news for His people—He would bring them back to Him and put His own Spirit of life in them.**WORD OF WONDER:** He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things we had done. It was because of his mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins. We were born again. The Holy Spirit gave us new life. —[Titus 3:5](#)

## CURIOSITY (PRE-SERVICE)

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: What good news have you heard lately?
- STEM Activity: News, Good News, Best News!
- Declaring God's Wonder



## BELIEF (WORSHIP &amp; BIBLE LESSON)

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Word of Wonder: [Titus 3:5](#)

## FAITH (APPLICATION)

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

## IDENTITY (RESPONSE &amp; CLOSING)

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Dry Bones  
Directed Prayer
- Game: Dry Bones
- Blessing Your Kids

**Wonder Ink****Wonder@Home**<sup>TM</sup>

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more! [WONDER@HOME \(PDF\)](#)

### INVITATION

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Has Good News for His People

**SCRIPTURE:** [Ezekiel 37](#)

**WORD OF WONDER:** [Titus 3:5](#)

One of the great things about social media is witnessing others' good news. Marriage proposals, pregnancy announcements, and gender reveals are so fun to watch. The joy in the moments is palpable through the screen, sometimes for people we don't even know personally!

Good news energizes and reminds us that there is still good happening in our broken world.

Take a moment to read [Ezekiel 37:1–14](#). In this passage, the prophet Ezekiel embodies the power of the Lord. Before God spoke to him, Ezekiel knew the power of the Lord was upon him, even though he was in a faraway, unknown place surrounded by dry, silent bones. When you walk in unfamiliar territory, God still has good news for you. He walks alongside you up every hill and mountain and through every valley. You never walk alone.

Through you, He also brings good news of hope restored to others. God has good news for His people through His people. Your testimony of God's good news can help others navigate their personal valleys.

- Have you ever experienced good news amid a personal trial?
- Where have you seen hope restored because of God's good news?
- Who needs to hear of God's good news in your life?

With God's power, Ezekiel spoke life into the dry bones. But guess what? The same power lives inside you. You can speak life into situations that seem helpless. You can celebrate the good news of hope restored.

—**Kathie Phillips**

Senior Director of Next Gen Ministry

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Ezekiel was a prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah. Because God's people were in danger of judgment, Ezekiel was called to do unusual things like eating a scroll and lying on his side for over a year to get the people's attention.

**WHAT?**

Ezekiel had many visions related to God's judgment and restoration. Ezekiel prophesied about God's restoration after the exile. He proclaims that God would send His Spirit to make a way for Israel to actually follow God's commands ([Ezekiel 36:24–32](#)).

**WHERE?**

Ezekiel received the vision about the dry bones when he and the Israelites were exiled to Babylon. This prophecy came during the 70-year exile when the Israelites felt like all hope was gone. But through Ezekiel's vision, God shares an image of new life!

**WHEN?**

Babylon chipped away at the nation of Judah over a few years, but the final defeat of Jerusalem and exile to Babylon came in 586 BC. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Solomon's temple along with the city. The people were in exile for 70 years.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

The vision in [Ezekiel 37](#) shares God's plan to restore Israel but also points toward the death and bodily resurrection of Jesus. His victory will bring new life to those who trust in Him, and His Spirit brings His followers life and joy!

#### Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Has Good News for His People

**SCRIPTURE:** Ezekiel 37

**WORD OF WONDER:** Titus 3:5

#### Welcome Question

**SUPPLIES:** whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker

#### Wonder Ink RESOURCES:

Before kids arrive, write the following question on a whiteboard:  
“What good news have you heard lately?”



#### As kids arrive ...

As kids arrive, welcome them by name and with a high five or fist bump. Show them the [Welcome Question](#), encouraging them to share their answers with you and other kids. If you have younger kids, read the question for them.

**Leader Tip:** When you greet kids with enthusiasm, you become the rarest of adults in those kids' lives: a grown-up who sees and listens to them. So let kids know you're delighted they've arrived.

#### At your start time ...

When you're ready to get started, call on several volunteers to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What good news have you heard lately?**

**When someone has good news for us, we want to hear it! Today we're going to discover the good news God had for His people and how He went about sharing it with them. But before we dive in, it's time to be curious.**

### **STEM Activity: News, Good News, Best News!**

**SUPPLIES:** disposable coffee cups (1 per kid), 8' lengths of string (1 per 2 kids), scissors (prep only), paper clips (1 per kid)

#### **Wonder Ink RESOURCES:**

Ahead of time, use scissors to poke a tiny hole in the bottom of each disposable coffee cup (1 per kid). (Just be sure not to return any prepped but unused cups to the church's kitchen or coffee station!) Cut string into 8' lengths, one for every two kids.

Have kids form pairs, and give each pair two paper clips, one 8' length of string, and two disposable coffee cups with holes in the bottom. Tell partners to each push one end of the string through the bottom of their cups and tie the string to a paper clip inside the cup, thus connecting their cups with the string. (Be available to help younger kids as needed with the tying.) When the string is taut, one kid can speak into her cup and her partner will be able to hear her voice in the other cup, as long as it's tucked over an ear.

Explain that this works because sound waves travel along the tight string between the two cups, and the cup held by the person listening amplifies the sound.

Ask partners to take turns sharing news—a pretend weather report or a tidbit about a new movie or book or something they did this week. Next, have partners share good news—something they know about God. Then have partners share the best news—that Jesus saved us, and we can be His friends forever.

**Good news is always welcome, and today we'll hear some good news God had for His people. You've just delivered good news using the world's lowest-tech telephones. God delivered good news in an unusual way too—but His people were happy to hear it. And God has some good news for you that you'll be happy to hear.**

**Today's Wonder Truth is GOD HAS GOOD NEWS FOR HIS PEOPLE.**



## Declaring God's Wonder

### Wonder Ink RESOURCES:

Boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

**And I can be Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**You declare good news to Your people!** (Kids repeat.)

**You share good news of Your mercy to me!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Repeat)  
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Repeat)  
And I am Your kid! (Repeat)  
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Repeat)  
You declare good news to Your people! (Repeat)  
You share good news of Your mercy to me! (Repeat)  
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Repeat)

RISEN

#### Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

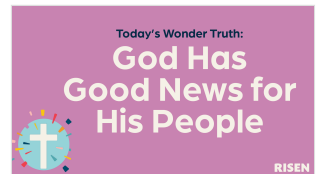
**WONDER TRUTH:** God Has Good News for His People

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#### Connecting the Wonder Truth

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:



Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HAS GOOD NEWS FOR HIS PEOPLE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Today in God's big story, Ezekiel's vision revealed God's plan to restore Israel and bring them back to Him. Ezekiel's vision also pointed toward the death and resurrection of Jesus. One day, Jesus' victory would bring new life to those who trust in Him. Today, His Spirit brings His followers life and joy!

#### In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story, ask questions, and simply be in awe of Him!

God shared good news with Ezekiel through a vision: dry bones coming back to life. God hadn't forgotten His people, and He was bringing them back to life in and with Him! God has good news for you too: Jesus can save us from our sin—the wrong things we say and do—so we can be with God as His kids forever!

**Jesus doesn't save us because of good things we've done. Rather, He saves us because He loves us and wants to give us new life in Him!**

**Why is Jesus' love good news for you?** Give kids time and space to think about each question. Some kids may want to keep their answers between them and God, while others may want to share them out loud.

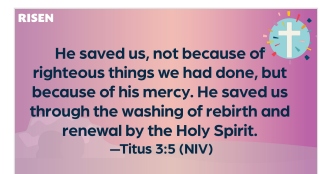
**What would you say to thank Jesus if He walked in right now?** Allow kids to answer freely.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:**

**Today's Word of Wonder is [Titus 3:5](#). In it, we discover that Jesus can save us by washing away our sins. Let's celebrate by reading the Word of Wonder together and pausing to "Woo-hoo!" all the good news in it!**



Help kids find the verse in their Bibles. Then have kids pump one hand in the air and shout, "Woohoo!" after each sentence or phrase—because each holds good news!

For an optional discussion, gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **What are the ways this verse is good news for God's people today?**
- **Which part of this verse sounds like especially good news to you?**





## Faith (Application)

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**5TH & 6TH GRADE**

### Small Group

**Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.**

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Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

## WORD OF WONDER

**He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things we had done. It was because of his mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins. We were born again. The Holy Spirit gave us new life.**

—Titus 3:5 (NIV)

### Questions: Older Kids

- **God's people were in exile when Ezekiel talked to them. What does the word exile mean? How might it have felt to be in exile so far from home?**
- **How were the people of Israel like dry bones?**
- **God made a big promise to His people through Ezekiel's vision. What was the promise?**
- **This message God gave Ezekiel for God's people gave them hope for their future. Where in your life could you use some hope for your future?**
- **God had good news for His people then, and He has good news for us now. What is the best news God has for us now?**
- **How does this news impact your life? How does it impact the lives of your family and friends?**

**Ezekiel's vision was packed with good news: God's people would one day be set free, have a home again, and God would put His very Spirit of life in them! Jesus' coming brought us good news too: we can be set free from sin, have a home in heaven, and be filled with God's Spirit, who gives us life. Let's thank God for the good news we have in Jesus and pray for our friends too.**

### Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to share things they are praising God for and things they are praying for. Encourage kids to pray out loud for the praises and prayer requests their friends shared. Close your prayer time by thanking God for the good news that, because of Jesus, we can be God's kids forever!

#### Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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#### Responding in Worship: Dry Bones Directed Prayer

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Ask kids to call out good news they'd like to receive. Help them know what you're looking for by sharing first. For instance, maybe you'd like to get a call saying someone bought you a house, or maybe the good news would be an old friend is coming for a visit.



After calling on a few volunteers, continue.

**We all love getting good news. Today we discovered that God had good news for His people back in Ezekiel's day, and He has good news for us today. Our good news is that Jesus came to save us and to wipe away our sins—the wrong things we do that separate us from God. Through Jesus we can be God's kids forever, and we can have new life. Amazing news indeed!**

**But part of this good news is that we also get to follow Jesus—to do what He tells us to do, to live as He wants us to live. That's when our "dry bones" get up and begin to become truly alive.**

Ask kids to spread out a bit and to pray with you as together you ask God how He'd like you to use different bones in your bodies to serve Him. As you pray, allow time for kids to move and reflect, listening for whatever God might have to say to them.

**Leader Tip:** God speaks in many ways! Encourage kids not to overthink as they listen to God. They can simply ask Him to speak and then notice the thoughts and feelings they have as they listen. God knows them better than anyone else and wants to share with them in ways they will understand. Assure kids that it's OK if they don't hear anything specific from God—He loves them and is with them!

**God, thank You for Your power and might. You alone can give us new life—thank You for this good news! We're listening as we ask You how You'd have us honor and serve You.**

**Touch your knees and, if you can, kneel. Tell God that you honor and love Him. Listen for what He might say to you in response.** Pause as kids talk to God and listen quietly. Take this time to pray as well.

**Now touch your head. Ask God how you might honor Him with your thoughts. What would He have you think about—or not think about—from today on?**

Pause as you and the kids pray quietly.

**Touch your feet. Where might God send you?** Pause for a few moments of silent prayer.

**Touch your fingers. What work might God have for you to do?** Again, pause as kids pray.

**Now place your hands over your heart. It's not a bone, but it pumps life to every part of your body and keeps you moving. If you want your whole heart to belong to God, tell Him. Ask Him to move you closer to Him.**

Pause as kids pray quietly.

**Thank You for hearing us, God. We give you our “dry bones,” knowing You alone can give them new life! Thank You for this good news! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## GAME : DRY BONES, HEAR!

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Risen Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

In this modified version of musical chairs, kids pretend to be lifeless skeletons who only come to life when the music is playing.

**Works well with  
the Ezekiel and  
the Dry Bones  
lesson!**

**Have you ever played Musical Chairs? Could someone explain how it works?** Give one of the kids the chance to answer or do so yourself. **This game is sort of like that, except there are no chairs. That's because in this game you'll pretend to be like the lifeless bones that came alive in [Ezekiel 37](#)!**

Invite kids to spread out and lay down on the floor. When the music isn't playing, they must lie completely still. **When I say, "Dry bones, hear!" and start the music, then you come to life. Get up! Do a walk. Do a dance. Do whatever you want, just so long as you keep moving. When the music is playing, you have to keep moving. Then, when the music stops, drop to the floor and lay perfectly still. The last person to stop moving is out!**

Play continues, eliminating one player per round, until there is only one kid left. She wins!

**Leader Tip:** Consider using the [Risen Elementary Spotify playlist](#) for the music. If you want to strike a sillier tone, you could sing or whistle a recognizable jingle.

### **Make It Inclusive!**

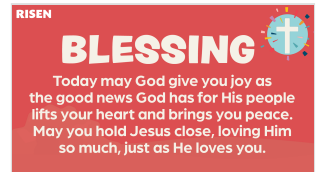
#### **Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities**

If there are kids in your group with physical restrictions, consider modifying the activity so that everyone may participate in the same way. For example, if you have a kid who is in a wheelchair, you might modify the activity by having all the kids sit in a chair when the music stops playing instead of lying on the floor.

**God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones and say, "Hear the word of the LORD!" ([Ezekiel 37:4](#)). And they came to life. That's the power of good news from God! God has good news for us too.**

## Blessing Your Kids

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.



**Leader Tip:** If you bless kids individually, do so using their names. Ask their permission to place one hand on their head or shoulder. You'll have kids' full attention, and the blessing will have maximum impact.

**Blessing:** Today, may God give you joy as the good news God has for His people lifts your heart and brings you peace. May you hold Jesus close, loving Him so much, just as He loves you.