

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.

INTRO ACTIVITY: Dry Bones Sensory Play

ACTIVITY: Getting Good News

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

ACTIVITY: Find the Good News

Wonder@Home™

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 \(PDF\)](#)



FOR FIVESTONE KIDS LEADERS

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: From 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 these 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!

INTRO ACTIVITY: Dry Bones Sensory Play

SUPPLIES: white pipe cleaners (at least 5), white construction paper (at least 5 sheets)

Set out white pipe cleaners and sheets of white construction paper. Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here today! We're going to pretend we're playing with dry bones, to help us get curious about God's big story today. Have you ever seen bones? Allow the kids to respond.

In our story today, we're going to hear about a time when God gave a message to His people using dry bones. You can play with these pipe cleaners and papers and pretend they are bones. You can connect them to make shapes and different formations.

Let the kids use the white pipe cleaners and white construction paper to make a pretend pile of bones. They can bend and twist the items, connect them to one another, and connect them into various formations and shapes.

ACTIVITY: Getting Good News

SUPPLIES: envelope, paper (1 sheet) or blank card, toy phone, toy computer, megaphone

Before the kids arrive, fold a sheet of paper or a card in half and place it into an envelope.

Do you like hearing good news? It's always great to get good news! Let's talk about some ways we can get good news. We could get a letter or a card.

Pull out the paper or card from the envelope (or let a child open the envelope and pull it out). **We could get a phone call.** Hold up the phone to your ear.

Grownups might get an email or another kind of message on a computer.

Pretend to type on a computer or read from a computer screen.

We could hear live announcements at an event or even watch the news on TV.

Hold up the megaphone.

Let the kids touch, play with, and explore the items used to receive good news.

Place the paper or card back into the envelope when finished and save it to use during God's Big Story.

Did you know that God has good news to share too? We'll learn about God's good news in our story today!

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD HAS GOOD NEWS FOR HIS PEOPLE.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD HAS—*Point up.*

GOOD NEWS—*Cup your hands to your mouth.*

FOR HIS PEOPLE.—*Point to everyone in the room.*

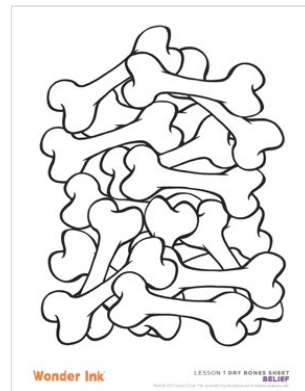
God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, envelope

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Dry Bones and People Sheet](#)

Before the kids arrive, print one copy of the [Dry Bones and People Sheet](#).

God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Ezekiel. Encourage the kids to say, "Ezekiel." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Ezekiel.**



God chose the Israelites to be His special people and follow Him. But ... the Israelites didn't always follow Him, and that made God sad.

So God sent prophets to warn the Israelites. A prophet is someone who shares messages (hold up envelope) **from God.**

The people didn't want to listen (place hands over your ears) **to what God's prophets said. So after many years, God sent the Israelites away from their land.**

The Israelites were far away from home. But God was still close, and He still cared for them.

God sent that special message (hold up envelope) **through a prophet named Ezekiel. God gave Ezekiel a vision, a special picture from God's Spirit. In this vision, God showed Ezekiel a valley filled with dry bones.** Hold up the [Dry Bones and People Sheet](#).

The Israelites—God's people—were like those dry bones. They had turned away from God and sinned, and now they lived far away from home. God told Ezekiel to speak (place hands around mouth) **to the bones and share this message** (hold up envelope) **from God: "I will put breath in you. Then you will come to life again. I will attach [muscles and skin] to you. ... Then you will know that I am the Lord"** ([Ezekiel 37:5–6, NIV](#)).

As Ezekiel spoke (place hands around mouth), **the dry bones in his vision began to rattle and come together. Then skin appeared on the bones. God told Ezekiel to speak again** (place hands around mouth) **and tell living breath to enter the bodies so that they could live again. And that's what happened!** Encourage the kids to blow their breath.

What had been dead, dry bones were now a living, breathing army of people!
Hold up the [Dry Bones and People Sheet](#).

Ezekiel's vision was for the Israelite people, but it also helps us to know the good news (hold up envelope) **that God wants us to share with others. Jesus died on the cross, but the Spirit of God raised Him back to life. God has power over death ... what good news!** Hold up envelope. **God has good news for His people!**

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. When I say, "good news," you can clap and cheer!

Dear God, we thank You for giving us good news (clap and cheer!) **that Jesus forgives us, saves us, and gives us new life! Help us share that good news** (clap and cheer!) **with others. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you remember you're amazing to God. He knows everything about you and is always thinking about you. Best of all, He's crazy in love with you. You are His most precious creation!

ACTIVITY: Find the Good News

SUPPLIES: colorful paper (several sheets), marker, tape

Ahead of time, write several different “good news” messages (i.e., “God sent Jesus for us,” “Jesus saves,” “Jesus makes us new”) on sheets of colored paper, and place them all over the room.

How does someone usually feel when they get good news? Allow the kids to respond. **Probably happy or excited! Let’s look around our room for some good news messages.** Even kids who can’t read can find and point to the messages as an adult reads them.

When we find all the messages, we can tape the messages to our door to help us remember that God has good news for His people. We can remember that God loves us so much, and we can help others know God loves them too!

Lead the kids around the room to find the colorful messages. Read each message before you tape it to the door.