

**K-5th Grade**  
**Ezekiel Gave Hope**  
*Parent Devo & Bible Study*

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Ezekiel 37

**STORY POINT:** God planned to bring His people home and give them new life.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Chronicles 7:14

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

**Parent Devotional**

Ezekiel had a tough job: ministering to people who had rejected God and suffered the consequences. The exiled people of Judah were eager to blame God for their circumstances. "It's not fair!" they argued. (See Ezek. 18:25.)

Ezekiel told the people that they were at fault for their exile; their faithlessness had provoked God's wrath. The people were getting what they deserved. "I take no pleasure in anyone's death," God said. "So repent and live!" (Ezek. 18:32).

God gave Ezekiel a vision. In this vision, God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones. The bones represented Israel. Ezekiel prophesied that God would put tendons, flesh, and skin on the bones. He would put breath in them so they would come to life.

Ezekiel encouraged the exiles. Apart from God, they were dead. But God was offering them life. He would restore their future. "My dwelling place will be with them," God said. "I will be their God, and they will be my people" (Ezek. 37:27). 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 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. (Eph. 2:4-5)

## Ezekiel 37

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.*

### **Memory Verse:**

"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14