



UNIT 15 | SESSION 6 | NOVEMBER 23-24, 2019

## 2-3's Lesson

# Ezekiel Gave Hope

**Bible Passage:** Ezekiel 37

**Story Point:** God planned to bring His people home.

**Key Passage:** "If my people ... turn from their evil ways, then I will ... forgive their sin, and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

**Christ Connection:** Jesus gives us life with God forever.

**KID CONNECT:**  
30 MINUTES

**LARGE GROUP:**  
15 MINUTES

**SMALL GROUP:**  
15 MINUTES

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

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 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 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. (Eph. 2:4-5)

## KID CONNECT

### WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

*Play* intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

### EXERCISE YOUR BODY

(no supplies needed)

*Lead* preschoolers through various exercises, talking about which parts of the body you are using. You may hop in place to use your feet, clap your hands to use your arms, march to work leg muscles, and so forth. Ask preschoolers to point to the place on the body where they feel the exercise working. Finish with stretches and deep breaths.

*SAY* • Great job friends! God made each of us. He made our feet, hands, legs, and arms. God made each part of our body. All of the parts work together, so that we can do amazing things. In our Bible story today, we are going to see God do something amazing! Let's listen to see what it is.

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

*Show* the countdown video to help preschoolers' transition to Large Group. Invite preschoolers to march like an army as they move to Bible study.

### WORSHIP

(VIDEO: WHEN I LOOK UP, VIDEO: I HAVE HOPE)

*Sing* "When I Look Up" and "I Have Hope".

### INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

*Place* a bookmark at Ezekiel 37 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open

Bible.

SAY • Today's Bible story from the Book of Ezekiel. We know this story is true since it is in the Bible, and the Bible is God's Word!

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: EZEKIEL GAVE HOPE, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)  
(no supplies needed)

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • Can you imagine how Ezekiel felt watching that army come alive? God told Ezekiel to tell the bones to live, and they did! God's people were sad and without hope, like the dry bones. God was going to give them hope, and He would bring them back to their land forever.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY • Jesus gives us life with God forever.

## PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)  
(key passage marker)

Place the key passage marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • "If my people (*display arms in front*) ...turn from their evil ways (*turn your body*), then I will (*point up*) ... forgive their sin and heal their land (*cross arms over chest*)." 2 Chronicles 7:14

God used Ezekiel to remind His people that He would forgive them and give them life in their own land, just like our key passage promises! When we trust Jesus, He gives us life so we can be with God forever.

## PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

## SMALL GROUP

**Session Title:** Ezekiel Gave Hope

**Bible Passage:** Ezekiel 37

**Story Point:** God planned to bring His people home.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus gives us life with God forever.

### BUBBLES

(bubbles, 1 per group)

*Blow* bubbles for the preschoolers to pop. Make sure the bubbles do not pose a slipping hazard. As the children play, talk about how your breath makes the bubbles.

SAY • God showed Ezekiel some dry bones. Breath came back into the bones and they became alive. God gave His people hope. God gives us hope through Jesus. GOD PLANNED TO SEND JESUS.

### COMPARE NEW AND OLD

(2 Ziploc bags, 1 ball of dried playdough, 1 ball of new playdough per group)

*Display* dried playdough in a Ziploc bag and new playdough in another bag. Invite preschoolers to touch and compare the items. Retell the story.

SAY • God showed Ezekiel some dry bones. God made the dry bones alive! God promised to bring His people back to their land and give them hope. GOD PLANNED TO SEND JESUS.

### CIRCLE TIME

(2-3 small Bibles per group, key passage card, Bible Story Picture Poster)

*Provide* Bibles for preschoolers. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to the Book of Ezekiel 37.

*Show* the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story.

*Say* the story point and gospel gems.

### GOSPEL GEMS

- God showed Ezekiel some dry bones.
- God promised to bring His people back to their land.
- God gives us hope through Jesus.

*Pray* with your group. Pray for your preschoolers by name if possible. Encourage them to talk to God in prayer throughout the week.

### CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Big Picture Card, 1 per family)

At pickup or drop off, hand this week's Big Picture Card to each child's influencer. Encourage them to discuss the Big Picture Question & Answer with their preschooler this week.