



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

K-1 Lesson

Ezekiel Gave Hope

Bible Passage: Ezekiel 37

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

Key Passage: “If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.” 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.

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 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 the bones 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! Jesus is the source of life and 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: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about what they hope for and what it means to have hope.

SAY • Sometimes we use the word *hope* as though it just means to wish for something or want something. In the Bible, hope is more certain. Today, we will learn more about the kind of hope we have in God.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

LARGE GROUP GAME

(SFX: GAME INTRO MUSIC, VIDEO: GAME RANDOMIZER)

ONE HAND, TWO HANDS, NONE

(no supplies needed)

SAY • Have everybody stand up. Instruct that they will have to choose either One Hand (in the air), Two Hands (in the air) or None. Then tell the Tech to start the randomizer (on the screen). The game will randomly decide which one of the 3 choices wins. Everyone that chose the correct one stays in the game and the other 2 sit down (basically knocking out 2 thirds each round). Then play it again with those still in. Play continues over and over until one kid wins.

NOTE: Be sure that they don't cheat! Some of the kids will try to switch their choice at the last second.

Also, when you get down to the final 5-8 kids, bring them up to the front so everyone can see what they choose etc...

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THE RIVER, VIDEO: ONCE AND FOR ALL)

SAY • Let's worship God!

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(CG: THEME BACKGROUND)

(mailbox, letter, Bible)

Leader enters and walks over to the mailbox and pulls a letter out.

SAY • Hey guys. While meeting you here isn't much of a surprise anymore, it certainly is pleasant! I hope you are all having a wonderful day. [*Look at letter.*] All right! This is great news.

I have an uncle who fell off his roof while cleaning the gutters. He was hurt pretty badly, but this letter from my cousin says he's doing well. The doctors expect him to make a full recovery!

Honestly, we weren't even sure if he would be able to walk again because of the broken bones in his legs. Thankfully, this good news can give him hope for the future. And more than that, he has hope for the future because of Jesus!

You know, this reminds me of our Bible story. It includes a lot about bones, hope for the future, and even Jesus too. If you stick around, I'd love to tell you all about it!

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • First, let's remember the big picture question we've been focusing on. *How did God plan to fix what sin broke?* Can anyone tell me? [*Allow responses.*] That is just right. *Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.* That means that, even though God knew people would disobey Him, He chose to create the world and each of us anyway. He loves to show love and had a plan all along to show us the greatest love ever through Jesus.

GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY • God's people had been disobeying for a long, long time. A few good kings were not enough to get the people back on track. God warned the people of Judah over and over, but they refused to listen. Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God, even when everything felt hopeless. God had a plan. Judah ignored God's prophets and was captured. But God's plan was still happening. Today we will learn about the prophet Ezekiel, and the message God gave Judah through him. Our story is called "Ezekiel Gave Hope." Let's watch it now.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: EZEKIEL GAVE HOPE, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

(Bible)

Show the Bible story video "Ezekiel Gave Hope".

SAY • I just love this story. No matter how hard things seem, no matter how hopeless God's people may feel, God's plan is always happening. He never gives up on them or abandons them.

In the very beginning of the world, when God created the first person named Adam, God did something amazing! First, God formed Adam out of dust from the ground, and then God breathed into Adam to give him life. In the Bible, breath is a symbol—or picture—of life. But not just regular physical life; breath is the wonderful and extraordinary life that only God can give.

In our story today, God told Ezekiel to command the breath to bring the bones back to life. God showed His power over death. God's people felt like their hope was gone. They thought that God had finished with them. But God was still working His plan. God planned to bring His people home and give them new life.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

SAY • Apart from Jesus, we are like the dry bones Ezekiel saw. God showed Ezekiel His power to bring people back to life. We see God's power through His son, Jesus. Jesus died on a cross to save us. God brought Jesus back to life too! Jesus gives us a life with Him that will never end.

KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible)

Show the key passage slide. Open Bible and lead the kids to read together 2 Chronicles 7:14

SAY • This key passage comes from a promise God made to His people a long time ago. But this key passage is for us too. God has promised to save everyone who trusts in Jesus. When we do, God forgives our sin and the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. Then, through His power, God begins to heal us of the brokenness sin causes. Someday Jesus will return and undo all the sad things caused by sin.

PRAY

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT!

SAY • Before we head to small groups, I want to let everyone know that this weekend we are having baptisms. Baptism is a celebration when a person shares that they have decided to follow Jesus. Do we have any kids in here getting baptized today? (*If so, celebrate with kids*) I want to encourage everyone to go outside and cheer on all our friends getting baptized today right after service.

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Session Title: Ezekiel Gave Hope

Bible Passage: Ezekiel 37

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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.

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Key passage poster – 1 per group, optional timer – 1 per group)

Select volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Praise each kid for his efforts and encourage all kids to continue working to memorize the key passage. Then challenge the kids to say the verse as fast as they can while still doing all the motions developed in session 1. Use a stopwatch and encourage kids to keep beating their previous times.

[If] my people [Hold arms as though placing them around friends' shoulders.]
pray and seek my face [Fold hands as in prayer.]
and turn from their evil ways [Face left, then turn to face right.]
then I will hear from heaven [Cup one hand over your ear.]
forgive their sin and heal their land. [Place hands on heart, move hands downward to gesture to the earth.] 2 Chronicles 7:14

SAY • Great job! You all have done wonderfully at learning that key passage. Remember that God spoke these words to help people understand His feelings toward people in sin. Everyone who asks forgiveness for sin and turns to God for help will be forgiven and made new.

DISCUSSION

(1 Bible per group)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

What did God show Ezekiel? (*a valley filled with bones, Ezek. 37:1-2*)

What did God do with the bones? (*caused them to come back to life; Ezek. 37:4-10*)

What was God's message to His people? (*God would bring them back to life and fill them with His Spirit, Ezek. 37:13-14*)

How does Jesus give us hope? *Guide kids to think about our hope for the future. We know God is faithful, and He has promised to send Jesus back to earth. At that time, all of the brokenness sin has caused will be fixed. We will be completely free from sin in every way. No matter how bad things may seem, we know that Jesus won the battle over sin.*

When does our new life with God start? *Direct kids to see that our new life with God starts right away. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and makes us new. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us and begin healing the damage sin causes. We get God's power to love Him, love others, and love life!*

SAY • God planned to bring His people home and give them new life. When we trust in Jesus, God gives us a new life.

HEARTS OF STONE

(construction paper - 1 per kid, pebbles in a cup- 1 oz per kid, glue - per group)

Give each kid a sheet of construction paper. Provide glue and a few cups filled with small pebbles. Help the kids draw a heart shape on their paper and glue pebbles to the paper along the outline they drew.

SAY • God planned to bring His people home and give them new life. Ezekiel wrote about this by saying that God would change our hearts. Ezekiel said that our hearts without God are hard like stone and don't want to love God. Sin is what causes our hearts to be like stone. God wants to change our hearts so that we will love Him, love others, and love life.

How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners. Through Jesus, God has provided a way for our hard, sinful hearts to become new and filled with love for God.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Bible Story Coloring Page - 1 per kid, crayons)

Ask the kids the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Who can I tell about this story?

Make time for prayer requests and pray for your group. If time allows, have kids complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Activity Page - 1 per kid)

Send home the Activity Page and encourage kids to complete it with their family.