

# April 11, 2021 PreK

**Bible Passage:** Ezekiel Gave Hope / Ezekiel 37

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

**Key Passage/Memory Verse:** 2 Chronicles 7:14: "if my people...turn from their wicked ways, then I will...forgive their sin and heal their land."

**Big Picture Question:** How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

**Christ Connection:** *When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. But God gave us Jesus to take away our sin. When we turn from sin and trust Jesus, He gives us life so we can be with God forever.*

## ETOWN IS OPEN!

Beginning April 11, we will be opening limited classrooms for one service in Totowa (9:30) and Ringwood (10:00). Registration will open one week prior to service and we will keep a waiting list as needed for PreK (age 3-5) and Elementary (Kindergarten-4th grade). Nursery will not be available quite yet. Head to

<https://emergencenj.org/digital-bulletin> to register and find out more information.

## ETOWN ZOOM ROOMS!

Jump into learn about Jesus with us each Sunday! There will be music, a bible lesson, and games. Starting 4/11: **ONE TIME @ 10AM FOR ALL AGES!**

Here's the ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5849608269?pwd=QzRpNFpiUS8wOHdqaXQ3QzlkVp1UT09>

## STAY CONNECTED WITH ALL THINGS EMERGENCE!

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<https://emergencenj.org/login> // If you have any questions on your Emergence Connect account, please reach out to [sara.vandyke@emergencenj.org](mailto:sara.vandyke@emergencenj.org)

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Get encouragement, updates, lesson tips, activities and more!

## \* **BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

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 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)

## **\* BIBLE STORY:**

### **INTRO:**

Today’s Bible story from the Book of Ezekiel may be hard to believe, but we know this story is true since it is in the Bible, and the Bible is God’s Word!

Remember 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 sinners through His Son, Jesus.

In our Bible story today, God gave His prophet Ezekiel a vision. In this vision, God took Ezekiel to a valley. The valley was filled with old, dry bones.

Let’s put our listening ears on and find out what happened next.

### **Ezekiel Gave Hope**

#### *Ezekiel 37*

**Ezekiel was with God’s people when they were taken as prisoners to Babylon. God gave Ezekiel a vision. In this vision, God took Ezekiel to a valley. The valley was filled with old, dry bones.** Ezekiel walked through the valley. God asked Ezekiel, “Can these bones come to life?”

Ezekiel said, “God, only You know if these bones can come to life.”

**God said, “Talk to these bones for Me. Say, ‘Dry bones, hear what God says: I will give you breath, and you will come to life. I will give you a body. Then you will know that I am God.’” Ezekiel began talking to the bones. All of a sudden, there was a rattling noise.** The bones were moving and coming together like God had said.

God said, “Talk to the breath for Me. Say, ‘This is what God says: Breath, come into these bones! Make them alive!’” Ezekiel talked to the breath, **and** the breath went into **the bones**. The bones **came to life, and a big army stood up in front of Ezekiel.**

**God said, “My people are like these bones. They think they are dried up. They do not think they have a future. I want you to talk to My people for Me.” God told Ezekiel what to say to the people of Israel. “Say: I am going to bring My people back to the land of Israel. I will give them life in their own land, and they will know that I am God.”**

Then God told Ezekiel to pick up two sticks. The first stick was for the people of Judah, and the second stick was for the people of Israel. Ezekiel held the two sticks together in one hand so they were like one stick. God said He was going to bring Judah and Israel back together. They would not be two separate nations anymore. They would be one nation again.

God’s people were also going to get a new king! This new king would be like a shepherd. **God promised that His people would go home to their land, and they would never be taken away again. “I will be with them,” God said. “I will be their God, and they will be My people.”**

*Christ Connection: When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. But God gave us Jesus to take away our sin. When we turn from sin and trust Jesus, He gives us life so we can be with God forever.*

## **OUTRO:**

Can you imagine how Ezekiel felt watching all those old bones come to life as a big army? It might sound scary, but this vision gave God’s people hope. They thought life was over now that they were prisoners in Babylon, but **God planned to bring His people home.** When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. But God sent Jesus to take away our sin. When we turn from sin and trust Jesus, He gives us life so we can be with God forever.

## **\* GOSPEL PLAN:**

**God is King.** Ask: “Who is charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?” Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.

**We Sinned.** Ask: “Have you ever done something wrong?” Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.

**God Sent Jesus.** Explain that God must punish sin. He loves us and He sent His son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came to take away the punishment of sin.

**Jesus Loves.** Ask: “Do you like presents?” Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

### **\* KEY PASSAGE:**

2 Chronicles 7:14: “if my people...turn from their wicked ways, then I will...forgive their sin and heal their land.”

### **Hand Motions:**

If my people – hold hands out palms face up

Turn from their wicked ways – push something aside with both hands – turn your face

Then I will forgive their sin – bring hands together over heart

And heal their land- bring hands down and spread out

2 Chronicles 7:14 – open hands like a book

### **\* PRAYER**

### **\* REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

- What did Ezekiel see in the vision? (*a valley filled with old, dry bones*)
- What happened when Ezekiel spoke God’s words to the bones? (*They came to life.*)
- Who are the dead bones like? (*God’s people, us*)
- What did God promise His people? (*to bring them home forever and to be with them*)
- ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.***

### **\* ACTIVITY:**

#### **ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE:**

Guide preschoolers to look at the two pictures and circle the differences in the bottom picture.

Say • In our Bible story today, God gave His prophet Ezekiel a vision. In this vision, God took Ezekiel to a valley. The valley was filled with old, dry bones. Can you guess from the picture what happened next? We will find out in today’s Bible story.

#### **Interpret signs**

Print and cut apart the “Symbols” printable. Show preschoolers one image at a time and ask what each symbol means.

Say • People use symbols to represent things. Knowing what symbols like this skull and crossbones mean is important. The skull and crossbones means something is deadly. Other symbols represent happier things, like a heart for *love* or a peace sign for *peace*. The walk symbol on a crosswalk sign lets us know it is safe to cross the street. We think of a king when we see a crown, and we think of Jesus when we see a cross. God showed a prophet named Ezekiel a vision. Just like symbols give us messages, God sometimes uses visions to give us His special messages.

God showed Ezekiel a whole valley full of dry bones. Ezekiel watched the bones put on flesh and come to life. When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. *But* God wanted His people to know that He would give them new life. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.*** God gave us Jesus to take away our sin. When we turn from sin and trust Jesus, He gives us life so we can be with God forever.

### **Bring it back together**

Provide simple body or other type of puzzles. If none are available, print and cut apart images from the Internet or a copy of the Bible story picture. Help children work the puzzles.

Say • Our puzzles looked like broken pictures before we started. But you brought all the pieces back together into one picture! God showed Ezekiel that He could bring dry bones back together into a living body. God also promised to bring the people of Judah and Israel back together into one nation. ***God planned to bring His people home.*** When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.*** God gave us Jesus to take away our sin. When we turn from sin and trust Jesus, He gives us life so we can be with God forever.

### **Look at fossils**

Check out picture books about fossils from the local library or if you have any fossils at home. Allow children to look at the bones pictured in the books. Ask if the depicted animals can come back to life.

Say • God asked Ezekiel, “Can these bones come to life?” Ezekiel said, “God, only You know if these bones can come to life.” God showed Ezekiel that He could bring dry bones back together into a living body. When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.*** God gave us Jesus to take away our sin. When we turn from sin and trust Jesus, He gives us life so we can be with God forever.

### **Blow bubbles**

Provide bubble solution and wands for preschoolers to blow bubbles. Enjoy the bubbles outside if weather permits.

Say • God showed Ezekiel some dry bones. Breath came back into the bones and they became alive. You used your breath to make bubbles! God gave the dry bones breath and life. God said His people were like the dry bones. They thought they had no future, but ***God planned to bring His people home.*** God gave His people hope. God gives us hope

through Jesus. **God planned to send Jesus.** When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life forever.

### **Make bone art**

Use a paintbrush to put washable white paint on a toddler's hand but not over the joints of her fingers. Guide her to press her hand onto dark construction paper to make an "X-ray." Wipe hands immediately. Write the story point in white crayon.

Say • God showed Ezekiel some dry bones to give His people hope. Only God can make dry bones come to life. **God planned to send Jesus.** God gives us hope through Jesus. Jesus gives us life with God forever.

### **Make a valley of bones**

Give each preschooler a sheet of blue and a strip of brown construction paper. Show them how to glue the brown strip to the blue paper to create a valley. Invite children to glue dry pasta on their paper to create a valley of dry bones.

Say • When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. But God gave us Jesus to take away our sin. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.*** When we turn from sin and trust Jesus, He gives us life.

# THE GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN for PRESCHOOLERS

**While preschoolers might not be ready to respond to the gospel, use this guide to help young minds begin to grasp big truths about Jesus and the kingdom of God.**



**GOD IS KING.** Ask: "Who is in charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.

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**WE SINNED.** Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.

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**GOD SENT JESUS.** Explain that God must punish sin. He loves us and He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came to take away the punishment for sin.

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**JESUS LOVES.** Ask: "Do you like presents?" Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

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*Pray that God will save your preschoolers. As you faithfully teach the Bible, you are planting gospel seeds in children's hearts. Ask God to grow the preschoolers into children who love and trust in Jesus.*



**If my people ... turn from  
their wicked ways, then  
I will ... forgive their sin  
and heal their land.**

**2 Chronicles 7:14**



# Find the Differences

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Look at the two pictures and circle the differences in the bottom picture.



Preschool Activity Pages

Unit 15 • Session 6

**Ezekiel Gave Hope**

## **BIBLE STORY:**

- God gave Ezekiel a vision of a valley filled with old, dry bones.
- God made the bones come to life.
- God said His people thought they were like those bones, but God planned to bring His people home and give them life.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 2 Chronicles 7:14

## **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

## **FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- Why did God's people think they were like the bones God showed Ezekiel? How are we like the bones?
- Talk about what would it feel like to live far away from your home or your family.
- What does God give us when we turn from sin and trust in Jesus?

## **FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Look online at a child-friendly diagram of the skeletal system. Help preschoolers feel and name their bones. Review the Bible story.
- Ask permission to pick up sticks in a neighbor's yard. Read and review Ezekiel 37:15-19.



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LIFEWAY KIDS APP**

