

Sunday morning
teaching plan

Date: 27th July

TITLE:	Ezekiel and the dry bones
THEME:	A vision of God's restoring power
AIM:	Even in the darkest moments, God has the power to transform a situation

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Book of Ezekiel was written during the time of the Babylonian exile. The people of Israel were facing despair and hopelessness as they were uprooted from their homeland. In this passage, God shows Ezekiel a vision of a valley filled with dry bones, symbolizing the dead and hopeless state of the people of Israel. Through the power of God's word and the breath of life, the bones come together, are covered with flesh, and eventually, life is restored to them. The primary message of this passage is that God can bring life and restoration to seemingly hopeless situations. The people of Israel needed to hear that, despite their current circumstances, God had not abandoned them and would one day restore their nation.

WARM UP

Do the skeleton quiz... can they name the bones in the body?

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1: Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 or watch cheesy AI video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svw2nhHYfo4>
from 1m 7 secs.

1. What is the significance of the dry bones in this passage, and what do they symbolize?
2. If something/someone is dead, can they be brought back to life?
3. In the story of Ezekiel, why do you think the people of Israel felt as if they were dead like dry bones? What are the things that disconnect people today from God?
4. Have you ever felt so disconnected from life around you that it felt you were not really alive?

(caution here: This may open up sensitive conversation. Please be aware of safeguarding)

Key teaching point: The bones are a picture of a dead spiritual life, no connection to God (life). In the passage, God asks Ezekiel if the dead can be brought back. It is clear we as humans cannot do this. But God is able to restore life from the most dire situation. Israel as a nation were disconnected from God because they refused to obey Him and His commands. God exiled them and they felt alone and abandoned. God however, had not abandoned them and had the power to restore them. He tells Ezekiel that this is what He will do soon! The people must have faith and return to Him.

Discuss the things that often disconnect us from God. Who is it that disconnects? Us or God?

Activity 2: The word of God brings life.

1. Look at v4. What do the dry bones hear?
2. If you are feeling spiritually dead and disconnected from God, what should you do?
3. Look up the following verses: John 6:63, 1 Peter 1:23, John 1:1 John 14:6, Proverbs 4:2-22.
What do they teach about life and God's word?

Key teaching point. The bones are told to hear the Word of the Lord. It is this Word that begins the transformation into life. When we are feeling like dry bones and disconnected from God, the best thing we can do is to dig into God's Word. Each of the verses point to God's Word being life or giving life in some way. If we want to be spiritually alive we must read God's Word, the Bible.

Activity 3 The Holy Spirit brings life

1. Look at v5-6. What will God do to make the bones live?
2. Where else in the Bible did God breathe and life came about? Look up Genesis 2:7
3. How might we also describe the breath of God?
4. What is it do you think that gives us life?
5. If we are feeling as if we are spiritually dead, and far from God, how can we receive the Holy Spirit that brings us life? How does a person know that they have received God's Spirit?

Key teaching: Hearing the word of the Lord is good , but it is the breath of God (**Ruach**) The Holy Spirit that brings life. God has breathed physical life into us all and His Holy Spirit in us (if we believe) connects us to God, we become spiritually alive. When we are feeling low and despondent, disconnected from God, it is only the Holy Spirit that brings us life and connects us to God. You might want to talk about prayer and praying for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to us etc. or for gifting. Be prepared for questions on gifts.

TAKEAWAY

Ezekiel 37:14 "I will put my Spirit in you and you will live..."

Even in the most difficult circumstances God can bring life. Never give up.

EXTRA INFORMATION

RUACH = HEBREW WORD FOR SPIRIT, BREATH OR WIND .

It's a multifaceted word used in the Hebrew Bible to describe a wide range of concepts, including God's presence, the Holy Spirit, and the human soul or vital breath.