



UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

Through the Bible

June 29 - July 6

Ezekiel 37

Things to Know

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Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder. Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Sermon Recap

1. God meets us in the valley, not just on the mountain.
 2. The Word gives structure; the Spirit gives life.
 3. Dead things don't stay dead when God speaks.
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Discussion Questions

1. What does God's question in verse 3—"Can these bones live?"—reveal about how He wants Ezekiel (and us) to respond to hopeless situations?

 **Ezekiel 37:3**

"And he said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' And I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.'"

Follow-up:

How might your outlook change if you asked God what He can do in your dry or lifeless circumstances?

2. Why does God tell Ezekiel to prophesy over dry bones instead of fixing the situation Himself? What does this say about the power of God's Word spoken through His people?

 **Ezekiel 37:4**

"Then he said to me, 'Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.'"

Follow-up:

When have you seen God use His Word to bring hope or healing to someone else through you?

3. What's the significance of the two-stage revival in verses 7–8 (structure without breath, then breath)? Can you think of examples where there is spiritual form without spiritual life?

 **Ezekiel 37:7–8**

“...and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.”

Follow-up:

Is it possible to look spiritually alive but lack the Spirit's power? How do we avoid this?

4. What does it mean to be filled with the breath of God? How does this part of the vision connect to personal and corporate revival?

 **Ezekiel 37:9–10**

“Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath... Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’”

Follow-up:

What does it look like in your life to daily depend on the Spirit rather than your own strength?

5. How does God's promise in verse 14 give you confidence for your future—even in seasons that feel like exile or death?

 **Ezekiel 37:14**

“And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live... Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

Follow-up:

Where in your life do you need to cling to this promise today?

Read

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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Scripture

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. **2** And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. **3** And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." **4** Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5** Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. **6** And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8** And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. **9** Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." **10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

11 Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' **12** Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. **13** And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. **14** And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

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Ezekiel 31:1-14

Living on Mission In Community

Ezekiel 37 reminds us that no situation is too dead, too far gone, or too broken for God to redeem. The same Spirit who brought life to dry bones is still at work today, breathing life into weary hearts, broken relationships, stagnant faith, and lifeless churches. But revival doesn't begin with hype—it begins with hearing God's Word and being filled with His Spirit. Just as the bones came together and stood up only after Ezekiel obeyed and prophesied, so God invites us to trust His voice and walk in obedience, even when the valley feels hopeless. The question is not whether God can bring life, but whether we are willing to believe Him and respond. Where in your life are you longing for God to breathe new life today?

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
 - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
2. How did you feed others?
 - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*

Leader Resources

Small Group Curriculum Guide on Ezekiel 37:1–14

Session Title: Can These Bones Live?

1. Session Overview

In this session, we explore Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones—a stunning image of death, despair, and supernatural revival. In a season when Israel had lost all hope, God showed His power to bring life from death. The vision reveals how God revives what seems hopeless through His Word and His Spirit. This passage is not just a prophecy for a nation—it's a promise for every dry, weary soul today.

2. Opening (Prayer & Accountability)

Begin by breaking into groups of 2–3 and asking:

- Is there any area of your life where you feel spiritually dry or distant from God?
- How can we pray for one another's personal walk with Christ this week?

Encourage leaders to lead by example in vulnerability.

Then pray together, asking God to breathe fresh life into your hearts through His Spirit and His Word.

3. Scripture Reading

Read Ezekiel 37:1–14 aloud as a group. Invite a few volunteers to take turns reading.

Encourage everyone to visualize the scene as Ezekiel describes it—let the imagery speak before interpretation begins.

4. Teaching Points

A. The Valley of Despair (vv. 1–3)

- Ezekiel is led by the Spirit to a valley full of dry bones—a picture of total hopelessness.
- The bones are not just dead; they are very dry, long decayed.
- God’s question to Ezekiel—“Can these bones live?”—forces him (and us) to confront our view of God’s power.

Key truth: God does not avoid valleys; He meets us in them.

B. The Power of God’s Word (vv. 4–8)

- God commands Ezekiel to prophesy—to speak His Word over the bones.
- As Ezekiel obeys, the bones come together, and flesh forms. But there’s still no breath.

Key truth: Structure and order without the Spirit is still lifeless. The Word prepares the way, but it’s not enough on its own.

C. The Power of God’s Spirit (vv. 9–10)

- The breath (Heb. ruach) enters the bodies, bringing them to life. Ruach means breath, wind, and spirit.
- The same Spirit who hovered over the waters in creation now breathes new life.

Key truth: God’s Spirit gives life. We are not alive in Christ without Him (John 3:6–8).

D. The Promise of Restoration (vv. 11–14)

- God explains the vision: the bones represent Israel, crushed and hopeless in exile.
- But He will open graves, bring them back, and put His Spirit in them.
- This is both physical restoration and spiritual revival.

Key truth: God specializes in resurrection—of people, of hope, of nations.

5. Discussion Questions

- 1. Why do you think God chose to show Ezekiel a valley of bones rather than a battlefield or a desert?**
 - 2. In what ways do you see spiritual dryness in your life, your family, or the church today?**
 - 3. Why is it significant that the bones come together before receiving breath? What does that reveal about spiritual life?**
 - 4. What role do both God's Word and God's Spirit play in your spiritual growth?**
 - 5. How does this vision help you trust God in a "valley" season of your life?**
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6. Application Points

- Personal: Ask God to reveal areas in your life that feel lifeless—relationships, ministry, worship, devotion—and invite Him to speak and breathe new life there.**
 - Relational: Speak God's Word to someone this week who is struggling. Encourage them with the truth that God still restores.**
 - Communal: As a group, pray for your church—specifically for dry or disconnected believers—to experience the Spirit's reviving power.**
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7. Closing Reflection and Prayer

Reflection Prompt:

Have everyone sit in silence for 1 minute and reflect on this question:

What is one area of my life where I need God to breathe new life today?

Then, pray aloud as a group:

“Lord, we confess that we often feel dry, weary, and helpless. But we believe You are the God who brings life from death. Speak to us. Fill us with Your Spirit. Restore our joy, revive our passion, and raise us to walk in newness of life. Amen.”

8. Memory Verse

Ezekiel 37:14

“And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

Encourage members to write it somewhere visible this week (phone lock screen, sticky note, mirror).

9. Leader's Notes

- **Tone:** This session invites honesty, repentance, and hope. Don't rush through the valley. Sit with the weight of hopelessness before jumping to resurrection.
- **Pacing:** Allow space for discussion. Don't feel pressured to “fix” every dry moment with platitudes. Trust that God's Word and Spirit are sufficient.
- **Follow-Up:** Challenge your group to spend 10 minutes each morning this week reading Scripture and asking the Spirit to breathe life into their hearts.

