

Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	Option 1: In and Out Explain what lungs do	Straws Paper bag
	Worksheet: New Life / Spell it out	Worksheet
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Amanda. She will get you when she is ready.	
Classroom:	Read group discussion questions p. 134 In the valley of dry bones, what did God tell Ezekiel to do first? The bones had flesh, but they were still dead. What did God tell Ezekiel to do next? How can we, like Ezekiel, share hope with people?	Bibles
	Snack: Pretzels and Marshmallows Make bones and read the "say" part on page 135 (no melted white chocolate for this part)	Whiteboard Marker



WELCOME

WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “What is something you own that you wish you could make new again? Maybe a bike or a doll. How could it be made new?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Made New” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn how God promised to give His people new life and return them to their land.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: IN AND OUT

Before the session, create a lung model for kids to see how we breathe in and out. First, tape two flexible straws together, allowing the flexible ends to point away from each other. Then, tape a paper bag to the flexible end of each straw. Make sure no air can leak out and the tape is secure. For added fun, consider creating a “face” and taping it to the top of the straw, away from the “lungs.”

Ask kids to point to where their lungs are in their body. Ask kids what God made their lungs to do. Discuss how we can't live without lungs because they supply our bodies with oxygen. Tell kids that we need breath to live. Demonstrate how our lungs work by slowly blowing air through the straws. The paper bags should inflate. Then inhale to deflate the paper bags, or squeeze the air out of the bags. Repeat several times.

SAY “Today, we will learn how the prophet Ezekiel saw a valley of dry bones. The bones were dead and had no breath in them. But we will see how God called the dry bones to hear the word of the Lord, and then caused breath to enter the dry bones so they came alive.”

☐ OPTION 2: GATHER THE STORY POINT



Before the session, write each word of the story point on individual sticky notes. Lead kids to stand in a circle. Place the sticky notes in the center of the circle. Add 10 other sticky notes of a different color to the pile. Choose four kids and give each kid a paper plate. Tell the four kids that their job is to “blow (or fan)” the sticky notes away from the other kids using their paper plate. When you say “go,” challenge kids to gather all the sticky notes with the story point within 30 seconds while the four kids try to “blow” them away. Play again, choosing four different kids to “blow” the sticky notes away.

SAY “Today, we will learn how God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel to give His people hope. Even though God's people were like dry, dead bones, God would speak and breathe new life into them. **GOD PROMISED TO RESTORE THE LAND TO HIS PEOPLE AND BE THEIR GOD FOREVER.**”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Ezekiel 37. Explain to the kids that the book of Ezekiel was written by the prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel was also a captive of Babylon.

Consider pointing to Babylon (E11) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ezekiel 37:21 or have the kids follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY 🗨️ When the people were taken captive to Babylon, God promised they would only be in exile for 70 years. Through Ezekiel, God reminded the people of this promise and told them that He would bring them back to their own land. **GOD PROMISED TO RESTORE THE LAND TO HIS PEOPLE AND BE THEIR GOD FOREVER.**

When we trust in Jesus, God promises to be our God forever. We will live with Him in His kingdom, a kingdom without sin that will last forever. Just as Ezekiel gave the people hope while they were in Babylon, God gives His people hope through Jesus. 🗨️

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ In the valley of dry bones, what did God tell Ezekiel to do first? 🗨️

Tell kids that God told Ezekiel to speak to the bones and say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 'I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'" Before we can be made alive and saved from sin, we first need to hear the gospel. We need someone to share God's Word with us so we can know how to be saved from our sin.

SAY 🗨️ The bones had flesh, but they were still dead. What did God tell Ezekiel to do next? 🗨️

Remind kids that God said to Ezekiel, "Say to the breath: 'Come from the four winds and breathe into these dead people so they may live!'" Ezekiel obeyed God, and the dead people came alive when the breath entered them. Share how we can only be made alive when we trust in Jesus and the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us. Tell kids that the Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5-8). Explain that the Holy Spirit gives new life to people and helps us to live for God.

SAY 🗨️ How can we, like Ezekiel, share hope with people? 🗨️

Encourage kids to remember that if they are a Christian, God has given them a message of hope. We call this message the gospel. God commands us to share the good news of how Jesus lived a perfect life in our place, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again to defeat sin and death forever. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved from sin, made alive through the Holy Spirit, and live with God forever.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: SAVE THE CITIZEN



Form kids into two teams. Use tape to divide the room in half. Instruct each team to select one kid from their team to be the “citizen.” The citizens must move over to the opposing team. Explain that each team’s goal is to save their “citizen” from the opposing team by bringing them back across the line. If kids are tagged by a member of the opposing team while trying to rescue the “citizen,” they are out. Play until a team has successfully saved their citizen. Then play again, choosing a new kid from each team to be the “citizen.”

SAY “God’s people were in exile in Babylon because of their sin, but God gave Ezekiel a message of hope to share with God’s people. One day, God would rescue His people from Babylon and make the way for them to have new life. **GOD PROMISED TO RESTORE THE LAND TO HIS PEOPLE AND BE THEIR GOD FOREVER.**”

☐ OPTION 2: EDIBLE BONES



Before the session, melt white chocolate chips in a sauce pan. Because the chocolate needs to remain melted, consider keeping the pan on a hot plate or melting the chocolate in a crock pot. Cover tables with plastic tablecloth.

Provide a sheet of parchment paper for each kid, 10 pretzel sticks, and 20 mini marshmallows. Lead kids to stick a marshmallow on each end of their pretzel sticks. Then carefully assist kids with covering their pretzels and marshmallows with the melted white chocolate. Place the pretzels on the parchment paper to dry. Provide plastic baggies for kids to take their edible bones home in.

SAY “God breathed life into dead bones in front of Ezekiel. The apostle Paul said that we are dead in our sins, but God gives us new life in Him when we trust in Jesus. When we trust in Jesus, God promises to be our God forever, and we will live with Him in His kingdom.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

New Life | Draw what each picture would look like if it was given new life.



Spell It Out | Use the code to spell out the message below.

WE ARE DEAD IN OUR SINS, BUT GOD

<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>			
<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>.</u>	

E = 1	F = 2	G = 3	H = 4	I = 5	J = 6	L = 7
N = 8	R = 9	S = 10	T = 11	U = 12	V = 13	W = 14
M = 15						

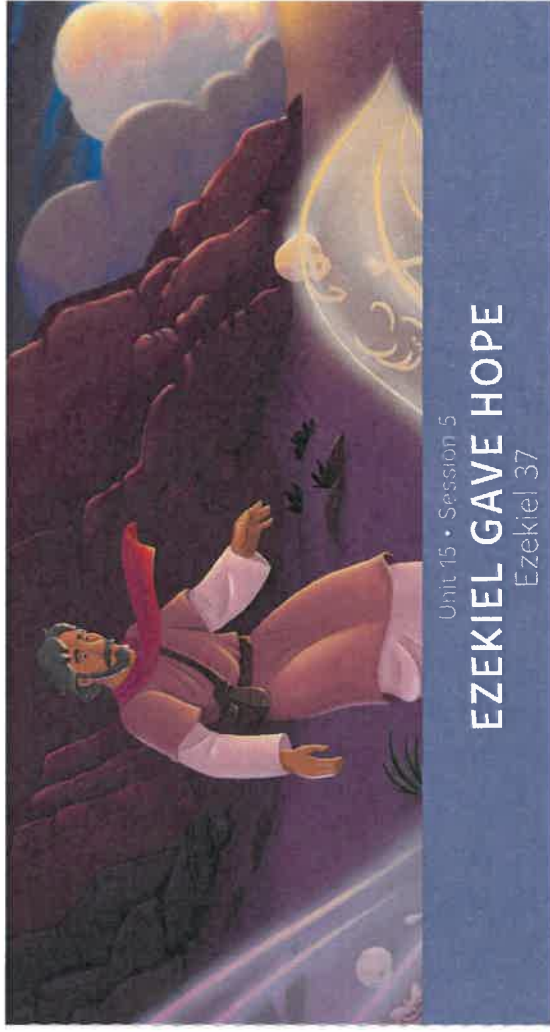


the **GOSPEL** PROJECT



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 15 • Session 5

EZEKIEL GAVE HOPE

Ezekiel 37

WHAT IS GOD LIKE? GOD IS HOLY, GOOD, AND LOVING.

Ezekiel was a priest and a prophet. While God's people were captives in Babylon, God called Ezekiel to give them hope. The Spirit of God led the prophet Ezekiel to the middle of a valley full of bones. God said to him, "Ezekiel, can these bones live?"

God told Ezekiel to speak to the bones and say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 'I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live.'" While Ezekiel was saying these words, he heard a rattling sound, and the bones came together into the shape of people. They looked like people, but they were not alive; they were not breathing.

God said to Ezekiel, "Say to the breath: 'Come from the four winds and breathe into these dead people so they may live!'" Ezekiel did so, and they came alive!

God explained to Ezekiel that this was a picture of the people of Israel. They were like dried up bones, without hope, but God would put His Spirit into them, and they would live and live in their own land.

"This is what God says: 'I am going to bring all my people from the nations where they have gone. I will gather them and make them one nation again, and one king will rule over them, a descendant of King David. They will no longer worship idols, and they will follow my laws and obey Me. They will be my people, and I will be their God. My dwelling place will be with them.'"

Christ Connection: God breathed life into dead bones in front of Ezekiel. The apostle Paul said that we are dead in our sins, but God gives us new life in Him when we trust in Jesus. God will forever be the God of all people who trust in Jesus.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR RESOURCES TO USE AT HOME!