

Large Group Leader:

Time	What to Do	Materials
10 minutes	Set up Computer with songs on Youtube, google slides powerpoint for today	
3 minutes	Start timer. Invite classes to join	Timer video
2 minutes	Welcome kids Collect the offering: For wells in Africa. Explain new project for money! We are going to "fill a barnyard!" Bring in your money for us to purchase farm animals and place them on a bulletin board.	Offering bag
	Birthdays: none this week	
2 minutes	Call to Worship: Leader: Have you ever seen something that looked completely lifeless, like a pile of dry bones? Kids: Yes! Dry bones can't come alive on their own! Leader: God showed Ezekiel a valley full of dry bones. God told Ezekiel to speak His words, and the bones came together and became alive again! Kids: Wow! God has the power to bring life! Leader: God promised to bring His people back to life and give them hope. God gives us hope, too! Through Jesus, we can have new life and the promise of being with Him forever. Kids: We worship God because He is powerful, faithful, and gives us hope! Leader: Let's stand together and worship our	

	amazing God!	
10 minutes singing	New Christmas Song!!! O come O come Emmanuel and Sing we the Song of Emmanuel Explain actions for: Israel: Emmanuel:	Video
	Other songs you may want to do	
3 minutes	Watch the video of the story	powerpoint
	Questions to ask: 1. What did God tell Ezekiel to do? 2. What did God say this event was a picture of? 3. What did God say the sticks showed?	
	Questions from kids video: 1. What does it mean to be raised to life again? 2. New life in Jesus means we want to follow His commands. How are you obeying His commands?	Video
2 minutes	God, thank You that You are good to everyone. You always remain faithful to Your people, despite our sin. Help us share the good news of Jesus with others so they can be made alive and live with You forever. In Jesus' name, amen	
1 minute	Do the blessing with them: May the Lord Bless You and Keep you. May he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you His favour and give you peace."	



INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and today we will hear a Bible story that gave God’s people hope while they were in Babylon. Did you bring your Bible with you? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Let’s open our Bibles to the book of Ezekiel. [Assist kids in finding Ezekiel in their Bible.]

Today, we will see how God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel to share good news: **GOD PROMISED TO RESTORE THE LAND TO HIS PEOPLE AND BE THEIR GOD FOREVER.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Through this promise, God would also make the way for His people to have new life. We’ll see how God is able to take dead, sinful people and give them new life in Jesus. Let’s pray: ‘Dear God, thank You for Your words that bring life. Please help us to hear and believe what You say so we might live through Jesus. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “What is God like? [Allow responses.] God is holy, good, and loving. As we finish learning our big picture question and answer, we can remember that God always acts for the good of His people. Even though His people sinned and deserved punishment, God promised to bring them back home and provide the way for them to have new life. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “At this point on our timeline, both Israel and Judah had been destroyed by foreign nations. The king of Assyria attacked Israel and took the people captive. Then more than a hundred years later, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Judah and took the people captive in Babylon. But God loved His people and wanted to give them hope and new life. Long before Israel or Judah sinned against God, He had promised to send a Savior who would give people new hearts and new life. Today, we will see how God spoke through Ezekiel to remind the people of this hope. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Ezekiel 37. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Ezekiel Gave Hope.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

EZEKIEL GAVE HOPE

“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?’”

Ezekiel replied, “Only you know, LORD God.”

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.’”

While Ezekiel was saying these words, he heard a rattling sound, and the bones came together into the shape of people. Then, muscle and skin grew over the bones. 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 the breath entered them, 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. God said, ‘I have spoken, and I will do it. This is the declaration of the LORD.’”

Then God told Ezekiel to take two sticks and write “Israel” on one, and “Judah” on the other. God told Ezekiel to take the sticks in front of all the people and join them into one stick, and then to say, **“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. And when I make my home with them forever, all the nations will know that I make Israel holy.’”**

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. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Make facial expressions: As you tell the story, invite the kids to use facial expressions to show how Ezekiel might have felt. Remind them that God’s people were sad and hopeless as a result of their sin, but Ezekiel brought a message of hope.

Use a fan: Hold up a hand-held fan and walk about the room, blowing air on the kids as you tell about the breath God breathed into the dead bones.



2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY 🗣️ After leading Ezekiel to a valley of bones, God asked Ezekiel if dry bones could live. Ezekiel understood that only God knew the answer to that question. What did God tell Ezekiel to do? **[Allow responses.]** God commanded Ezekiel to speak to the bones and they would live. Then He told Ezekiel to call for breath to enter the bodies. Ezekiel obeyed God both times, and the bones that were once dead became living people.

What did God say this event was a picture of? **[Allow responses.]** God explained that the people of Israel were like dead bones without hope. But He promised Ezekiel that when He put His Spirit in them, they would live. Only God can make something dead come alive. This is a message of hope for all people because all people are dead in their sins (Ephesians 2:1-2). We all need to hear the good news about Jesus to be forgiven and be made alive.

What did God say the sticks showed? **[Allow responses.]** God promised He would bring Israel and Judah back together as one nation. **GOD PROMISED TO RESTORE THE LAND TO HIS PEOPLE AND BE THEIR GOD FOREVER.** Judah had been ruled by both good and bad kings, but God's people were in need of a greater King who could make them alive and able to obey God. Jesus Christ is the only King who can raise our dead, sinful hearts back to life. Through faith in Jesus, people receive the Holy Spirit, who gives them power to obey God. 🗣️

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY 🗣️ The people of Israel and Judah were dead in their sin and without hope. The Bible tells us that we are dead in our sins, but God gives us new life in Him when we trust in Jesus. God sent His son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. God will forever be the God of all people who trust in Jesus. Have you trusted in Jesus? 🗣️

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 15, Session 5" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What does it mean to be raised to life again?
2. New life in Jesus means we want to follow His commands. How are you obeying His commands?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Remind kids that many people in North Africa and the Middle East are Muslim or Jewish. Tell kids that these religions do not believe in Jesus as God's one and only Son sent to save people from sin.

SAY 🗣️ Missionaries in North Africa and the Middle East have a heart for those who do not know



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus. They desire to display God's love to others so they can know what God is like and how He loves them. Missionaries share the gospel to offer hope: though people are dead in their sins, by faith in Jesus they can be made alive! Romans 10:14 reminds us how people cannot believe in Jesus if they have never heard about Him. Just as Ezekiel shared God's words, missionaries go and share the good news of Jesus so people may hear and believe. 🙏

Pray for missionaries serving in North Africa and the Middle East. Pray the people living in those areas will hear and believe the good news about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, create two sets of key passage cards. Write a word from the key passage on each card, including the reference. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 145:9 together.

SAY 🙏 God is good! God shared with Ezekiel that He would not leave His people in Babylon. Just as He wanted to bring His people back to their land and be with them, God wants a relationship with us too. In His goodness, God sent Jesus so everyone who trusts in Him can be with Him forever. 🙏

Form kids into two groups and give each group a set of key passage cards. Challenge groups to arrange their cards as mirror images, being sure to place the cards in the correct order. Remind kids that God promised to bring His people together as one nation, and He promises to bring us into His family when we trust in Jesus.

Lead kids to sing "God Is Good (Psalm 145:9)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY 🙏 God, thank You that You are good to everyone. You always remain faithful to Your people, despite our sin. Help us share the good news of Jesus with others so they can be made alive and live with You forever. In Jesus' name, amen. 🙏

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**

