

EZEKIEL GAVE HOPE

EZEKIEL 37



CHRIST CONNECTION: God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus. God will always be with everyone who believes in Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The LORD is good to everyone. Psalm 145:9

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God took a man named Ezekiel to a place full of dry bones.
- The bones were like God's people who felt sad and without hope.
- God promised to give the people life again, to bring His people together, and take care of them.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: One day, God took a man named Ezekiel to a place full of dry bones. God asked Ezekiel to talk to the bones. Ezekiel said, "Listen to God!" The bones came together to look like people, and the people became alive! God told Ezekiel that the bones were like His people who felt sad and without hope. God promised to give them life again. Then God told Ezekiel to take two sticks. He wrote Israel on one and Judah on the other. God told Ezekiel to show the people how God would make the two sticks into one. God said, "I will bring all my people together and take care of them. They will follow me, and I will be their God."



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Ezekiel 37. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A HYMN

Sing to the tune of “Amazing Grace”:

“The LORD is good to everyone.
The LORD is good to all.
The LORD is good to everyone.
The LORD is good to all.”

SAY “ Is the Lord good to everyone? Yes, God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus. God will always be with everyone who believes in Jesus. ”

2 SHAKE FOR JOY

Sit babies in leader’s laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Provide noisemaker toys or toys that make rattling sounds when shaken. Cheer as the babies shake the toys. Read the gospel gems, keeping the noisemakers still during the first and second gospel gems when there is no hope, but shaking and rejoicing as you read the third gospel gems.

SAY “ God’s people felt sad and without hope. But God’s people felt joy when He promised to give the people life again, to bring His people together, and take care of them. ”

3 GRAB A BONE



Gather cardboard tubes, plastic eggs, and dry beans. Place a small amount of dry beans in the plastic eggs and tape closed (two per tube). Tape one egg to each end of the cardboard tube. Use duct tape (preferably white) to fully wrap each “bone” so that the eggs are secure, and they look bone-like. Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows just out of reach of the bones. Encourage babies to reach for the bones. Read the gospel gems as the babies play.

SAY “ God took a man named Ezekiel to a place full of dry bones. The bones were like God’s people who felt sad and without hope. God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus. God will always be with everyone who believes in Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Ezekiel 37. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 MAKE A SHAKER BOTTLE



Set out a small, empty water bottle. Pour a spoonful of dry rice into the bottle using a funnel. Add a small toy bone or mini craft stick. Secure the cap with duct tape. Show the toddler how to shake the bottle. Comment that it sounds like rattling bones. Review the Bible story.

SAY God took a man named Ezekiel to a place full of dry bones. The bones came together to look like people, and the people became alive! God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus. God will always be with everyone who believes in Jesus.

3 SHAKE BOTTLES AND SING

Use shakers from "Make a Shaker Bottle" or provide shakers (one per toddler). Guide toddlers to play and sing along to the tune of "Merrily, We Roll Along": "The LORD is good to everyone, everyone, everyone. / The LORD is good to everyone. / Psalm 145:9." Retell the Bible story.

SAY In our Bible story, did the bones move? Yes! The bones moved and came together to look like people, and the people became alive! God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus.

4 BRING STICKS TOGETHER

Gather two paint stirring sticks. Write ISRAEL one stick and JUDAH on the other. Place them on opposite sides of the room. Encourage the toddlers to find the sticks and bring them to you. Hold the sticks apart, one in each hand. Explain that God's people were divided. Bring the sticks together, holding them with one hand. Explain that God brought them back together.

SAY Were the bones together or apart in our Bible story? Yes, they started apart, but God brought them back together! The bones were like God's people who felt sad and without hope. God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus.

5 POUR RICE



Set a bin of dry rice with scoops and funnels on a towel or tablecloth. Help toddlers measure and pour the rice. Encourage toddlers to listen to the rice as it pours. Pour a bit of rice onto the cloth, and allow toddlers to hear the difference the sound makes. Retell the Bible story.

SAY God took a man named Ezekiel to a place full of dry bones. God asked Ezekiel to talk to the bones. Ezekiel said, 'Listen to God!' The bones came together to look like people, and the people became alive! God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus.

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: ACT OUT THE BIBLE STORY

Instruct toddlers to lay quietly on the floor. Tell them about the valley that God showed Ezekiel. When you say, “Listen to God!” instruct the toddlers to jump up! Repeat as desired.

SAY God took a man named Ezekiel to a place full of dry bones. God asked Ezekiel to talk to the bones. Ezekiel said, ‘Listen to God!’ Then the bones came together to look like people, and the people became alive! God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus. God will always be with everyone who believes in Jesus. **””**

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “Merrily, We Roll Along”: “The LORD is good to everyone, everyone, everyone. / The LORD is good to everyone. / Psalm 145 verse 9.”

SAY God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus. God will always be with everyone who believes in Jesus. **””**

3 TAPE STICKS TOGETHER

Set out two jumbo craft sticks (two per child). Write ISRAEL on one and JUDAH on the other. Allow the toddlers to decorate the sticks with crayons or stickers. Use colorful tape to connect the ends of the sticks together, words facing outward and visible. Retell the story.

SAY God told Ezekiel to take two sticks. He wrote Israel on one and Judah on the other. God told Ezekiel to show the people how God would make the two sticks into one. God said, ‘I will bring all my people together and take care of them. They will follow me, and I will be their God.’ Our key passage phrase says, ‘The LORD is good to everyone!’ **””**

4 PUT PUZZLES TOGETHER

Print and cut out the “Happy and Sad” printable. Cut each face into three or four pieces. Lay out the pieces and encourage toddlers to sort the pieces based on color, then to put the pieces of each color together to make a face. Lead the toddlers to point out each face as you call out that emotion, saving the sad face for last. Review the Bible story.

SAY God took Ezekiel to a place full of dry bones. God told Ezekiel that the bones were like His people who felt sad and without hope. God promised to give them life again. Does God give us new life too? Yes, God gives us new life when we trust in Jesus. God will always be with everyone who believes in Jesus. **””**

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.