

Focus passage: Ezekiel 37:1-14

1 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.

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."

What stands out to you from this passage?

If you were in Ezekiel's shoes, what do you think your first response to God's question in verse 3 would be?

When something has been dead long enough for what remains to be dried bone, they are usually past the point of bringing them back. What makes the scene here so different?

*In giving Ezekiel such a vision, he is shown graphically a work that the bones could never do for themselves. God alone is the one who could work such a miracle, to restore sinew, skin, and breath. **Read and discuss Ephesians 2:1-9.** What do we have in common with the bones of Ezekiel?*

*Not only are the bones restored and given life and made into a great army, but God does even more. What else does God do in the final paragraph? To see another commonality we have with the bones, **read Acts 2:1-4.***

Do you believe there are dry bones beyond God's healing? Are there parts of your life you don't believe God could heal? If so, why don't you think God can work his power in these areas?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

