



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Has Good News for His People

SCRIPTURE: [Ezekiel 37](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Titus 3:5](#)

One of the great things about social media is witnessing others' good news. Marriage proposals, pregnancy announcements, and gender reveals are so fun to watch. The joy in these moments is palpable through the screen, sometimes for people we don't even know personally!

Good news energizes and reminds us that there is still good happening in our broken world.

Take a moment to read [Ezekiel 37:1–14](#). In this passage, the prophet Ezekiel embodies the power of the Lord. Before God spoke to him, Ezekiel knew the power of the Lord was upon him, even though he was in a faraway, unknown place surrounded by dry, silent bones. When you walk in unfamiliar territory, God still has good news for you. He walks alongside you up every hill and mountain and through every valley. You never walk alone.

Through you, He also brings good news of hope restored to others. God has good news for His people through His people. Your testimony of God's good news can help others navigate their personal valleys.

- Have you ever experienced good news amid a personal trial?
- Where have you seen hope restored because of God's good news?
- Who needs to hear of God's good news in your life?

With God's power, Ezekiel spoke life into the dry bones. But guess what? The same power lives inside you. You can speak life into situations that seem helpless. You can celebrate the good news of hope restored.

—**Kathie Phillips**

Senior Director of Next Gen Ministry

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 1 **FOR LEADERS**
EZEKIEL AND THE DRY BONES

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Ezekiel was a prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah. Because God's people were in danger of judgment, Ezekiel was called to do unusual things like eating a scroll and lying on his side for over a year to get the people's attention.

WHAT?

Ezekiel had many visions related to God's judgment and restoration. Ezekiel prophesied about God's restoration after the exile. He proclaims that God would send His Spirit to make a way for Israel to actually follow God's commands ([Ezekiel 36:24–32](#)).

WHERE?

Ezekiel received the vision about the dry bones when he and the Israelites were exiled to Babylon. This prophecy came during the 70-year exile when the Israelites felt like all hope was gone. But through Ezekiel's vision, God shares an image of new life!

WHEN?

Babylon chipped away at the nation of Judah over a few years, but the final defeat of Jerusalem and exile to Babylon came in 586 BC. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Solomon's temple along with the city. The people were in exile for 70 years.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

The vision in [Ezekiel 37](#) shares God's plan to restore Israel but also points toward the death and bodily resurrection of Jesus. His victory will bring new life to those who trust in Him, and His Spirit brings His followers life and joy!



Curiosity

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: plastic bin, play dough or sand, white pipe cleaners (at least 10), white construction paper (at least 10 sheets), coloring utensils, play dough or sand toys (optional), small ball (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Ezekiel and the Dry Bones Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Mountains and Valleys

Set-up: Place play dough or sand inside a bin.

Play: Let the kids use the dough or sand to make two hills. Encourage them to run their hands down and then up the hills. Tell them that a valley is the place between two hills.

Play Station: Dry Bones Sensory Play

Set-up: Set out white pipe cleaners and sheets of white construction paper.

Play: Let the kids use the white pipe cleaners and white construction paper to make a pretend pile of bones. They can bend and twist the items, connect them to one another, and connect them into various formations and shapes.

Play Station: Ezekiel and the Dry Bones Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the [Coloring Sheets](#) and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw some good news they have heard.



Belief

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:
God, we can't wait to hear about the good news You have for us! May Your Holy Spirit help us learn from Your Word. Help us share Your good news with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Read from the Big Picture Bible p218
Ezekiel and the Dry Bones

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things we had done. It was because of his mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins.

— Titus 3:5 NIV

In our story, God gave a vision to Ezekiel with a message for God's people. In the vision, God breathed life into the dry bones to help His people know He could breathe new life into them and bring them back into a relationship with Him! God wants us to know that good news too.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does forgiveness mean?**
- **What good news do you think God has for you today? How does it make you feel?**



Faith

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Activity: Find the Good News

SUPPLIES: colorful paper (several sheets), marker, tape

Ahead of time, write several different “good news” messages (i.e., “God sent Jesus for us,” “Jesus saves,” “Jesus makes us new”) on sheets of colored paper, and place them all over the room.

How does someone usually feel when they get good news? Allow the kids to respond. **Probably happy or excited! Let's look around our room for some good news messages.** Even kids who can't read can find and point to the messages as an adult reads them. **When we find all the messages, we can tape the messages to our door to help us remember that God has good news for His people. We can remember that God loves us so much, and we can help others know God loves them too!**

Lead the kids around the room to find the colorful messages. Read each message before you tape it to the door.



9:00 Service

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Responding in Worship: Full Body Worship

In today's story, God's good message turned dry bones into living bodies. God has good news for His people, and that's us! We can use our whole body to thank and praise God for His good news that Jesus loves and saves us from our sins.

Touch your knees and kneel, if you can. Tell God that you honor and love Him. Listen for what He might say to you in response. Pause as kids talk to God and listen quietly. Take this time to pray as well.

Now touch your head. Ask God how you can praise and thank Him with your thoughts. Think about what you can thank God for. Pause as you and the kids pray quietly.

Touch your mouth. Think about what you can say to God right now. Say it either out loud or in a whisper. Pause as the kids talk to God.

Touch your feet. Where might God send you to share His love and His good news that Jesus brings new life? Pause for a few moments of silent prayer.

Touch your palms and raise your hands. What work might God have for you to do? Again, pause as kids pray.

Now place your hands over your heart. How can you show God that you love Him? Pause as kids pray quietly.