



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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Curiosity Activity: Make It Move

SUPPLIES: pair of gloves, toy car, noisemaker (such as a party blower or toy kazoo), balloon, tissues

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

Gather a pair of gloves, a toy car, a noisemaker, and a balloon, and place them on a table where everyone can see them.

I have a few things here that just won't move by themselves. Can you help me figure out how to make them move? Hold up the objects one at a time, ask the kids what needs to happen for each one to move, and let the kids help you move them. For the noisemaker, point out that though you can't see sound, you are creating sound that moves. For the balloon, blow it up without tying the end, and then let it go to make it fly. Ensure kids do not place the balloon in their mouths or touch a balloon that has been in someone else's mouth. Let a few kids take a turn blowing a tissue to try and make it move.

The balloon and tissues couldn't move on their own, but when we used our breath to blow them, they moved. We're going to hear a story from the Bible about a time when God's breath came into something and made it move. God did this to share some really good news with His people!



10:45 Service

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 NiRV

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?



10:45 Service

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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Craft: New Life Person Puppet

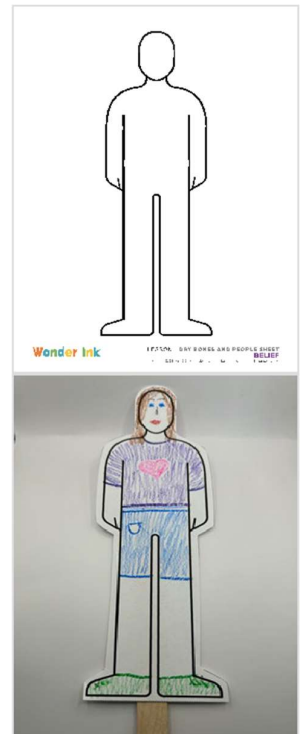
SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, kid-safe scissors, craft sticks (1 per kid), tape or glue

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [New Life Person Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print one [New Life Person Sheet](#) for each kid. Set out coloring utensils, scissors, craft sticks, and tape or glue.

In our story today, we learned about a vision God gave to Ezekiel where a valley of bones turned into living, breathing people. What do you think God wanted Ezekiel and the Israelites to know from that vision? Allow the kids to respond. God wanted them to know there was good news. Even though they had sinned and turned from Him, He was still with them. He would forgive them and breathe new life and hope into them! God's good news for us today is that He can also make us new and forgive us!

Each of you has a stick person on a paper. You can use the coloring utensils to decorate your stick figure person and give it new life. You can draw clothes and hair and anything you want that represents a person who is loved and forgiven by God! Then cut around the person and glue or tape it to a craft stick to make a puppet. Then we'll make our person puppets pop up and say, "God has good news for His people!"





10:45 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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Closing Activity: Dry Bones, Hear!

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Risen Early Childhood Music Flashdrive](#) (optional)

In this modified version of musical chairs, kids pretend to be lifeless skeletons that only come to life when the music is playing.

This game is like musical chairs, except there are no chairs. That's because in this game you'll pretend to be like the lifeless bones that came alive in [Ezekiel 37](#)!

Invite kids to spread out and lie down on the floor. When the music isn't playing, they must lie completely still.

When I say, "Dry bones, hear!" and start the music, then you come to life. Get up! Do a walk. Do a dance. Do whatever you want, as long as you keep moving and respect other people's space. When the music is playing, you have to keep moving. Then, when the music stops, drop to the floor and lie perfectly still. The last person to stop moving is out!

Continue playing, eliminating one player per round, until there is only one kid left, who wins!

God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones and give them a message from God. Then the bones came to life. That's the power of good news from God! He has good news for us too!