Preschool–Grade 6

The Valley of Dry Bones

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God can make dry things live, and we listen to the word of the LORD.
Bible passage: Ezekiel 37:1–14. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD." *Ezekiel 37:4 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 6 paper "bones" (paper strips with rounded ends), a marker, tape, paper, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper bones (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Ezekiel 37:1.

1. Opening game: Hear the Word (5 minutes)

Kids sit on the floor, very still. You call out different things: "Hear the birds!" "Hear the rain!" "Hear the drum!" Nobody moves. But when you say, **"Hear the word of the LORD!"**, everyone stands up on their feet as fast as they can. If someone stands up at the wrong time, they sit back down and try again. Play a few rounds. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about what happened when God's word was spoken in a valley full of very dry bones."

2. Bible story: Can These Bones Live? (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Ezekiel 37, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Ezekiel was a man who spoke God's words to God's people. The Bible calls him a **prophet** (Ezekiel 2:5). One day, the hand of the LORD was upon Ezekiel. God carried him in the spirit and set him down in the middle of a **valley**, a low place between hills. The valley was full of bones (37:1)! God led Ezekiel all around them. There were very many bones, and they were very, very dry (37:2).

Then God asked Ezekiel a question: "Son of man, can these bones live?" **Son of man** is what God called Ezekiel. Ezekiel answered, "O Lord GOD, thou knowest" (37:3). That means, "Only You know, God."

God told Ezekiel to **prophesy**, to speak God's words. **Read Ezekiel 37:4 from your Bible:** "Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD." God promised, "I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live" (37:5).

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The story continues: Ezekiel did just what God told him. As he spoke, there was a noise and a shaking, and the bones came together, "bone to his bone" (37:7). Then **sinews**, the strong cords that hold a body together, and flesh and skin came upon them. But there was no breath in them yet (37:8).

So God told Ezekiel to speak to the **wind**: "Come from the four winds, O breath" (37:9). Ezekiel spoke, and the breath came into them. **Read Ezekiel 37:10 from your Bible:** "and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army." **Exceeding great** means very, very big!

Then God told Ezekiel what it meant. God's people were sad and far from home. They said, "Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost" (37:11). They felt like dry bones! But God promised to bring them home to their own land (37:12). And God said, "And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live" (37:14). God can make dry things live!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did God set Ezekiel down? *(In a valley full of bones, Ezekiel 37:1)*
2. What were the bones like? *(Very many and very dry, 37:2)*
3. What did God ask Ezekiel? *("Can these bones live?" 37:3)*
4. What happened when Ezekiel spoke God's word? *(The bones came together, bone to his bone, 37:7)*
5. What happened when the breath came into them? *(They lived and stood up upon their feet, 37:10)*

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4. Memory verse: Bone to His Bone (5 minutes)

Write the verse on the 6 paper bones: *Again he said unto me, / Prophesy upon these bones, / and say unto them, / O ye dry bones, / hear the word of the LORD. / Ezekiel 37:4.* Explain the old words: **prophesy** means speak God's words, **ye** means you, and **the LORD** is God. Scatter the bones on the floor, "very many and very dry". Kids put them together in order, bone to his bone, and tape them to the wall. Read the verse together. Then take one bone down and say it again. Keep taking bones down until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God made dry bones live! God can make dry, sad things live, and He can make *us* live a new life. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4). God promised, 'And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live' (Ezekiel 37:14, KJV)!"
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when you hear God's word at church or at home, listen and do what it says, like Ezekiel did.

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6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **valley of dry bones word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/dry-bones-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/dry-bones-craft), or **Draw the Valley:** kids draw a valley between two hills with a few simple bones on the ground, then draw wind lines blowing in from the four corners of the page, "Come from the four winds, O breath" (Ezekiel 37:9).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You can make dry things live. Help us listen to Your word and do what it says. Thank You for Your Spirit that gives life. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child is worried about the bones: say, "This was a picture God showed Ezekiel (Ezekiel 37:1), and it has a happy ending: God made them live!" Keep the bones simple and the story short. The KJV words "slain" (37:9) and "graves" (37:12) are left out at this age on purpose.
If a child asks if this really happened: the Bible says the hand of the LORD carried Ezekiel "in the spirit of the LORD" (37:1). God showed it to him, and God told him what it meant (37:11–14).

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