



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for March 22, 2009**  
**Released on Wednesday, March 18, 2009**

**"God Gives New Hope"**

**Devotional Reading:** Romans 6:1-14

**Background Scripture:** Ezekiel 37

**Printed Text:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Memory Verse:** "I will...put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 37:6).

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

- 1** The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,
- 2** And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.
- 3** And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.
- 4** Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.
- 5** Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:
- 6** And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.
- 7** So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.
- 8** And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.
- 9** Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon 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 up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.
- 11** Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.
- 12** Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.
- 13** And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,
- 14** And shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that we can be sure that God will keep His promises to us because He always does what He says He will do.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Because God does not lie, His people could know that the good things He promised them would be coming.
2. God has made good promises to us, and we too can be sure He will keep them.

**PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Telling the Lesson, you will need a flannel graph figure or picture of a large crowd of Israelites, one of Ezekiel, and a sign that says "GOOD PROMISE."

For Telling How to Live, you will also need the "GOOD PROMISE" sign.

For Helping to Remember, provide for each child crayons and a 5-by-12-inch piece of white poster board.

For Lesson Activity, make a copy of the word search for each student.

**TEACHER'S NOTES:**

**Time:** about 586 - 585 B.C.

**Place:** Babylon

Does a Bible passage such as Ezekiel and the valley of dry bones have anything at all to say to young children? At first look, we might think not, but it does!

It says God's people are important to Him, even when they have been disobedient. It says He makes them good promises, all in accord with His good plans. And it emphasizes that those promises will surely be kept because the promise maker is God Himself, who cannot lie. "Then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it" (Ezek. 37:14).

This lesson, then, encourages and gives hope. Because of who God is and what He is – both sovereign and good – we can have new confidence. God is able to do whatever He chooses. He keeps His promises. He cannot lie. He gives hope. Those are encouraging truths to tuck away in a corner of a child's mind and in an adult's mind too.

In our lesson this week, we explore the wonder of new life where once there was only hopelessness and death. God offers hope and the promise of newness of life. This is demonstrated through Ezekiel's captivating vision of a valley filled with lifeless, dry bones.

**BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Jim's friend Dennis was already at the school bus stop when Jim got there.

"My grandmother is coming," Dennis told him right away. "She said she is bringing me a new video game."

Jim liked to tease, so he said, "Oh, she was probably just saying that."

But Dennis knew better. "Not Grandma. When she promises to do something, she does it," he said.

Boys and girls, the Bible says God is that way. When God makes a promise, you can be sure He will always do just what He says. Today we are going to hear what God once promised He would do for His people - and then what happened.

**TELLING THE LESSON:**

You will remember that God's people were having a sad time. (Show crowd.) When they were living back in their own country, they had said no to obeying the Lord, so now enemies were making them live in their country and do what they said. What made things especially sad was that it looked as if they would never get to go back to their own land again. They would never have their own king. Nothing good was ever coming to them. They felt as if

their country had died.

God knows how to do things at the right time, though. And one day He showed the Prophet Ezekiel what He was going to do for them. (Set up and leave standing the Ezekiel picture.) He showed Ezekiel by giving him a kind of dream or vision.

It was a very strange dream too. In this dream Ezekiel was walking in a valley, a low place between two mountains. (Point to Ezekiel.) Looking around, he noticed that there were bones lying all over the ground. They had once belonged to living people, but the people were not alive now. All Ezekiel saw were just old, dry, dead bones.

The Lord said, "Ezekiel, can these bones live again?"

(Point to Ezekiel.) Ezekiel did not know what God was thinking, so he said, "Lord God, You know whether they can."

Then the Lord said, "Talk to these dry bones for Me. Tell them I will make them live."

When Ezekiel did that - remember, this was a dream - he heard a rattling sound. He heard the bones coming together the way they used to be. Almost before Ezekiel knew what was happening, those bones were people again, standing on their feet like an army. They were breathing. They were alive! That was certainly a strange, strange dream.

God knew Ezekiel would not understand what such a strange dream meant, so He told him. "These bones are like My people," the Lord said. "Tell them for Me that I am going to take them back to their own land. It will be like they are made alive again. Then they will know that I am really the Lord."

What a good promise! (Show "GOOD PROMISE.") God would take them home again. His people could be sure He really would, for it was the *Lord* who promised, and He never, never lies. And not too long after that, God's people got to go home.

#### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

God has made a good promise to you too. (Show "GOOD PROMISE.") The Bible says that if you will believe Jesus died on the cross for all the wrong things you have done, He will make you His child and someday you can live in heaven with Him. And you can be sure He will keep that promise, for God never lies.

#### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

The children will make their own "GOOD PROMISE" posters. Tell them to print these words in large letters and then decorate the posters as they choose. Suggest that each child show his poster to three people and tell them what God's promise is.

Have each child complete the Lesson Activity. The word search has key words from the lesson to help the children remember the topics discussed.

#### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

***"I will...put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord"***  
***(Ezekiel 37:6)***

Enemies had taken God's people far away from their homeland. It looked to them as if they would never go back and have their own country. It was almost as if they were not even alive anymore.

The Lord, however, promised Ezekiel in a kind of dream that they *would* go back. He would bring them back to life. They would be people in their own land again. The Lord Himself would do it, and they would say, "He is our God."

#### **CONCLUSION:**

If we picture the valley where Ezekiel stood, we can imagine the bones all around. As far as we can see, there would be nothing but dry, lifeless bones – despair, hopelessness and death.

But we are reminded that even in the midst of hopelessness and despair, God offers hope. God promised Ezekiel that the dry bones he saw would be raised from their graves

and brought back to life. We have that same promise from the Lord – He can take what is dead and hopeless and give new life through His Spirit.

**PRAYER:**

Father God, thank You for Your Word that encourages and gives hope. We praise You for Your good promises. Help us to believe and trust all that You have promised, in Jesus' name, amen.

**ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "God Gives New Healing" and focuses on the river that flows from God's temple bringing food and healing to all. Study Ezekiel 47:1-12.

**LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:**

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**WORKS CITED**

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

**LESSON ACTIVITY:**

**“God Gives New Hope” (Ezekiel 37:1-14)**

**Find the following keywords from the lesson:**

BREATH	FLESH	LIVE	GRAVES
SKIN	DRY BONES	LAND	ISRAEL
WIND	ARMY	EZEKIEL	SPIRIT
PROPHECY	SHAKING	HOPE	VALLEY

E A T A S H V A P F H T A E R B E P S A A Z I  
V V O S P I R I T S E V A R G R E W I E B E A  
I P V E S A R P A R S E N L L L M W I N D Z G  
L E Z R S E N O B Y R D A E E K E S K S E E R  
P E R T E P V S B T R N N L Y A L A D N S K P  
H E S K I L E E H L S A L Y I A R M Y I E I V  
H O P E I H T R N L I L A Y R H L S E E E E O  
A I K H N H S Y E Y N E L P P E H A L E L L A  
K I S N N V I E I D T R O R R A E L L L D E A  
N R N R D L H E L I O L O Y K N V E A V H Y G  
R S E L A A S P E F I P E I K R L S V H L E S  
R E K R K E I P E Y H L N R T I N L L S P S S  
L B O I Y E L D P E R G R L E I R R T N I D S  
P B V I K H E I S I N T S R K H S H E S R S E  
V R F A R L L Y L M N N N S H D S S E S E Z L  
L Y A T G N B D R D H R D A S Y I Y I H O S P

**Solution Key:**

**"God Gives New Hope" (Ezekiel 37:1-14)**

E H T A E R B  
V S P I R I T S E V A R G E  
I W I N D Z  
L S E N O B Y R D E  
N K  
A A R M Y I  
H O P E H L S E E  
I S P H L L  
S E R A L  
R L O K A  
A F P I V  
E H N N  
L E G I  
S K  
Y S