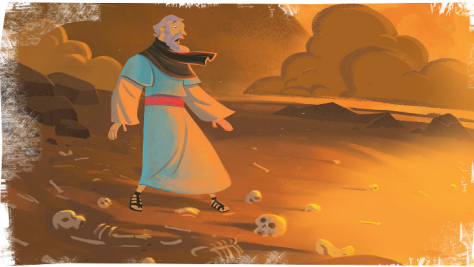




Lesson	Ezekiel
Bible Passage	Ezekiel 37
Story Point	God is I AM
Key Passage	Psalm 23
Big Picture Q & A	How can we know what God is like? We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible



Bone Bonanza

INSTRUCTIONS: Match each skeleton to the Book or event it most closely relates to.

KEY NOTES: RAINFOREST FALLS SUMMER

Discovering God's character is a great adventure! Every story in the Bible shines a light on who God is—His love, power, faithfulness, and grace. Every story we explore this summer will show us amazing truths about God that are revealed to us in the Bible. The more we learn about our Creator, the more we understand who we are and how deeply we are loved. It gives us confidence to trust Him in every moment.

Let's explore the nature of God!

Grace Airways Rainforest Falls Curriculum in Children's Ministry will focus on discovering God's character through Bible stories. Each story chosen highlights a specific attribute of God.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 23 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 13th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

July 11th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 23rd All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Aug 30th Film all classes doing the Summer Psalm

Sept 13th FALL KICKOFF

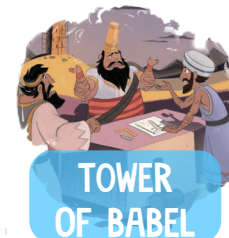
Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Ezekiel had a tough job: ministering to people who had rejected God and suffered the consequences. The exiled people of Judah were eager to blame God for their circumstances. "It's not fair!" they argued. (Ezek. 18:25.) Yet in their frustration, they misunderstood who God truly is. He is the great "I Am" He is the One who is always just, present, and unchanging, not influenced by human opinion or circumstance.

Ezekiel told the people that they were at fault for their exile; their faithlessness had provoked God's wrath. "I take no pleasure in anyone's death," God said. "So repent and live!" (Ezek. 18:32). This reveals that God is not distant or harsh, but merciful and consistent in His character. Because He is "I Am."

God gave Ezekiel a vision. In this vision, God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones. The bones represented Israel. It was completely lifeless and hopeless. Ezekiel prophesied that God would put tendons, flesh, and skin on the bones. He would put breath in them so they would come to life.

Ezekiel encouraged the exiles. Apart from God, they were dead. But they were being offered life. He would restore their future and dwell with them. "My dwelling place will be with them," God said. "I will be their God, and they will be my people" (Ezek. 37:27).

We too are dead in our sin. (Eph. 2:1) Sin separates us from God because He is holy. On our own, we are like the dry bones. We are without life. But God is patient and unchanging in His desire to save. He calls us to repent and live, just as He did with Israel.

Hundreds of years after Ezekiel died, God's presence came to His people through Jesus Christ; the source of life who offers living water (John 4:10,14). The great "I Am" acts in grace, allowing us life with Christ. The same God who breathed life into dry bones is still at work today, and gives new life to all who trust in Him.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



10 min **Take Off**

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to share if they (or a family member) has ever broken a bone. How long did it take to heal? When a bone breaks, it takes time, care, and the body slowly heals, but the bone is still alive and connected to the body. In today's story, we will hear about bones that weren't just broken. They were completely dry, lifeless, and scattered. There was no way they could heal on their own. But God showed that He is the One who is always alive and has the power to give life!

Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Summer Psalm
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

Summer Truth

We can explore the nature of God

Big Picture Question

How can we know what God is like?

We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible

Summer Psalm

Psalm 23 ESV

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

At the time of Ezekiel, God's people had turned away from Him, and as a result, the nation of Judah was conquered and many people were taken far from home into exile in Babylon. The people felt hopeless, cut off from God, and began blaming Him for their situation. God sent Ezekiel as a prophet to remind them that their sin had led them there, but also to give them hope. Today we will hear about a story when God demonstrated His power as the great "I Am."

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.

PICK UP:

**First Service:
Around 9:45**

**Second Service:
Around 11:45**



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to Ezekiel 37. Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

No matter how hard things seemed and no matter how hopeless God's people felt, God's plan was still at work because He is the great "I Am." He is always present, always faithful, and never changing. From the very beginning in Genesis, God showed that He is the source of life when He formed Adam from the dust and breathed into him, giving him life. That breath wasn't just physical. This was a picture of the powerful life only God can give. Years later, when God's people were taken captive to Babylon because of their sin, they felt like all hope was gone and that God had abandoned them. But God was still with them and kept His promises. In a vision, God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones and told him to speak His words, and when Ezekiel did, the bones came together and were brought back to life. This story also showed a preview of what God was going to do in the future. Just as Adam's sin caused all people to be dead in sin, God was planning the way to bring people back to life. Jesus' perfect life, undeserved death, and miraculous resurrection made the way for us to have life with God again.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: GOD PLANNED TO BRING HIS PEOPLE HOME AND GIVE THEM NEW LIFE.

Ezekiel the prophet had been taken with God's people to Babylon. Even in captivity, God gave Ezekiel visions so he could tell God's people about the future. One day, God gave Ezekiel a vision. God led Ezekiel through a valley filled with old, dry bones. God asked Ezekiel, "Can these bones come to life?" Ezekiel replied, "Lord God, only You know."

God said, "Speak to these bones for Me. Say, 'This is what God says: I will put breath in you, and you will come to life.'" Ezekiel spoke to the bones. Suddenly, there was a noise—a rattling sound. The bones were coming together.

God said, "Speak to the breath for Me. Say, 'This is what God says: Breath, come into these bones so that they may live!'" Ezekiel did, and the breath entered the bones. They came to life, and a vast army stood before Ezekiel. God said, "These bones are like My people of Israel. I want you to speak to them for Me." God told Ezekiel to say, "This is what God says: I am going to bring My people back to the land of Israel. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live."

God told Ezekiel to hold two sticks together so they would become one single stick. God said, "My people will live forever in the land I gave to their ancestors." God would make a covenant of peace with His people forever.

Christ Connection: Apart from Jesus, we are like the dry bones Ezekiel saw. God showed Ezekiel His power to make dead people alive. We see God's power at the cross. Jesus died to save sinners. God raised Jesus from the dead, and He gives us eternal life.



Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find Ezekiel. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** God is I AM
2. **What did God show Ezekiel?** *(a valley filled with bones, Ezek. 37:1-2)*
3. **What did God do with the bones?** *(caused them to reconnect, grow flesh, and come back to life; Ezek. 37:4-10)*
4. **What was God's message to His people?** *(God would bring them back to life and fill them with His Spirit, Ezek. 37:13-14)*
5. **What is our ultimate hope?** *We know God is faithful, and He has promised to send Jesus back to earth. At that time, all of the damage sin has caused will be undone. We will be completely free from sin in every way. No matter how bad things may seem, we know that Jesus is victorious over sin.*



God's attributes- In today's story we see that God is:

I AM

15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Living or non-living?

Instruct the kids to stand up and scatter themselves around the room so they have room to move and dance without bumping their neighbors. Name different things. If the thing you name is living, kids should move and dance; if non-living, they should freeze in place. Suggested things: cats, rocks, trees, clouds, light bulbs, clocks, mushrooms, skeletons, humans.

- The difference between living and non-living may not always be obvious. Trees don't move around, but they are living, and many machines do move, but they are non-living. Skeletons alone are not alive, but they are part of many animals that are.

Hearts of Stone

Give each kid a sheet of construction paper. Provide glue and a few cups filled with small pebbles. Help the kids draw a heart shape on their paper and glue pebbles to the paper along the outline they drew. Then help kids write the story point in the center of their pebble hearts.

- **God planned to bring His people home and give them new life.** Ezekiel wrote about this by saying that God would take people's hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh. Stone is cold and non-living. Flesh is warm and alive. Sin causes all the brokenness we experience, including the dead, stony hearts we are born with. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.*** Through Jesus, God has provided a way for our dead, sinful hearts to be brought to life and filled with love for God.

Exercise your Body

Lead children through various exercises, talking about which parts of the body you are using. You may run in place to get hearts pumping, do push-ups to work arm muscles, do jumping jacks to work leg muscles, and so forth. Ask children to point to the place on the body where they feel the exercise working. Finish with stretches and deep breaths.

- Our bodies are made up of lots of parts like bones, muscles, hearts, lungs, and brains. All of the parts work together, so we should take care of our whole body to stay healthy. Do you think a skeleton—that's the bones in your body—could stand up by itself? God asked a prophet named Ezekiel a similar question in our Bible story today. Can bones come to life?

Dig for Bones

Before the session, gather clean, plastic dog bones or spray paint small edible dog bones white. Cover a table and the floor below with plastic tablecloths. Place a large plastic bin filled with a couple inches of sand on the table. Hide the bones in the sand. Place small sand toys in the bin for children to use as they dig for the bones.

- Was it fun to find the bones in the sand? God showed Ezekiel a whole valley full of dry bones. Ezekiel watched the bones put on flesh and come to life. When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. *But* God wanted His people to know that He would give them new life. **How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.** God gave us Jesus to take away our sin. When we turn from sin and trust Jesus, He gives us life so we can be with God forever.

Bone Labeling

Before the session, write the following words on separate index cards. Prepare two sets: *clavicle, cranium, femur, humerus, mandible, patella, phalanges, radius, ribs, tibia*.

Form two teams of kids: boys and girls. Instruct each team to choose a player to be the human model. (Option: Draw a body outline on a large sheet of paper and let kids label the outline.) Give each team a roll of masking tape and a set of index cards. Challenge kids to label their human model by taping the names of bones to the areas of the body they think the bones can be found. After a few minutes, compare the teams' labels and reveal the correct answers. (Answers: *clavicle: collarbone, cranium: skull, femur: thighbone, humerus: upper arm bone, mandible: jawbone, patella: kneecap, phalanges: finger or toe bones, radius: forearm bone, ribs: bones around the chest, tibia: lower leg bone*)

- The average adult skeleton is made up of 206 bones. Did you know that most of those bones are in the hands and feet? (54 bones in the hands, 52 in the feet) Today's Bible story is about a valley of bones!

5 min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space— a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're ready for Sunday!

