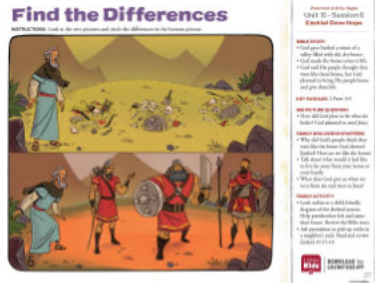
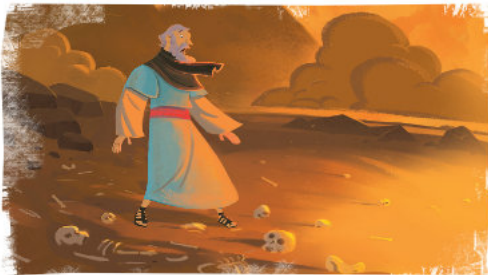




Lesson	Ezekiel
Bible Passage	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Story Point	I AM
Key Passage	Psalm 23
Big Picture Q & A	How can we know what God is like? We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible



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

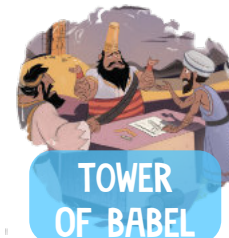
Gospel—Centered Preparation:

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. (See Ezek. 18:25.)

Ezekiel told the people that they were at fault for their exile; their faithlessness had provoked God's wrath. The people were getting what they deserved. "I take no pleasure in anyone's death," God said. "So repent and live!" (Ezek. 18:32).

God gave Ezekiel a vision. In this vision, God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones. The bones represented Israel. 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.

Only God has the power to restore life and restore Israel. God is "I AM," the name He used to reveal Himself in Exodus 3:14 to Moses at the burning bush. This name encompasses all that God is and shapes how we are to relate to Him. It reveals His continual presence with His people, showing that He is not limited by time, space, or history. The name also reminds us that God is distinct from His creation, yet deeply relational with those He has made.

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

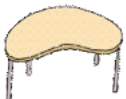
We too are dead in our sin. (Eph. 2:1) Sin separates us from God because He is holy. We are apart from God's presence. But God does not delight in our death. He is patient and wants us to repent and live!

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

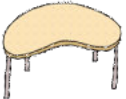
Morning Routine



Stay with this order.
Adjust pictures on schedule according to your plan.
Review schedule with the children at the start of the morning.

	Take Off VBS song Prayer BPQ & A		5 Min
	Journey Worship & Wiggles Psalm 23 Bible Story Discussion		15 Min
	Flight Lab Bible Story Activity		10 Min
	Free Play Inside or on playground		10 Min

At congregation last song—clean up/move inside

	Pilot's Log Prayer Take Home Page Settle & Review		5 Min
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5 min Take Off

Celebrate & being here! Introduce the morning

Gather

As the children enter, have them gather at the TV to begin with worship/singing. Have your co-pilot check attendance.

Song

Do a VBS song or 2 of your choice as time allows to help children prepare for the lesson.

Summer Truth: We can explore the nature of God

This week we will look at the story of Ezekiel

Summer Psalm

Practice the **Psalm 23 song during Worship & Wiggles**

Encourage and build excitement for memorizing, we will video the children on Sunday, August 30th

Transition to the Bible Story

Clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy, use a finger play, etc...
Set expectations for the children: “my turn to talk, your turn to listen, eyes on me, hands in your lap”

Choosing the same transition every week works super well with child and kindergarten ages.

Bible Connection Ideas

Bible FingerPlay:

1, 2 (hold up fingers) The Bible is true (hands like book), God loves me (cross arms, point to me) and God loves you (cross arms, point to class)

Bible Foundation Motions:

- The Bible is **True** (*thumbs up*)
- The Bible is How God **Speaks to Us** (*cup hands around mouth as if you were shouting*)
- The Bible is **Different** from other stories (*cross your arms and point in opposite directions*)
- The Bible points to **Jesus** (*ASL sign for Jesus*)

Fingerplay Ideas

Open Shut them:

Hold hands in front as you open and shut them while saying:

Open shut them, open shut them, give a little clap

Open shut them, open shut them, lay them in your lap.

Creep them creep them, slowly to your chin

Open wide your little mouth (pause), but do not let them in!

Active Preparing to sit and listen:

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I jump up from the ground.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I turn myself around.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I sit myself right down

I stomp my feet (*while sitting*), I clap my hands, I do not make a sound (*finger over lips, spoken in a whisper*).



10 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Introduce the Bible Story

Use our Bible Finger play each week to transition to the Story.

- The Bible tells us true stories about God. Today's Bible story is from the Book of Ezekiel. **Point to the Bible story picture on their timeline.** The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Tell the Bible Story

Using the pictures, tell the Bible Story or watch the video (*This lesson is in It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook on page 125*). Tell the story using your own words keeping eye-contact with the children.

- God's people were far away from their home. God gave Ezekiel a vision to encourage him and God's people. In the vision, Ezekiel saw dry bones coming back to life. God is "**I AM**" which means He is all powerful. He has the power to bring dry bones to life.

Talk about the Bible Story

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions.

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** *God is our I AM*
2. **What did Ezekiel see in the vision?** (*a valley filled with old, dry bones*)
3. **What happened when Ezekiel spoke God's words to the bones?** (*They came to life.*)
4. **What does "I AM" mean when we use it to describe God?** (*"I AM" means God is always with us and always powerful.*)
5. **How can we know what God is like? We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible**

What movement-based activity can I use?



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

Have a student place the story picture on the 'timeline'

Age Appropriate Bible Story

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you

Ezekiel — *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

Ezekiel was with God's people when they were taken as prisoners to Babylon. God gave Ezekiel a vision. In this vision, God took Ezekiel to a valley. The valley was filled with old, dry bones. Ezekiel walked through the valley. God asked Ezekiel, "Can these bones come to life?"

Ezekiel said, "God, only You know if these bones can come to life." God said, "Talk to these bones for Me. Say, 'Dry bones, hear what God says: I will give you breath, and you will come to life. I will give you a body. Then you will know that I am God.'"

Ezekiel began talking to the bones. All of a sudden, there was a rattling noise. The bones were moving and coming together like God had said. God said, "Talk to the breath for Me. Say, 'This is what God says: Breath, come into these bones! Make them alive!'" Ezekiel talked to the breath, and the breath went into the bones. The bones came to life, and a big army stood up in front of Ezekiel.

God said, "My people are like these bones. They think they are dried up. They do not think they have a future. I want you to talk to My people for Me." God told Ezekiel what to say to the people of Israel. "Say: I am going to bring My people back to the land of Israel. I will give them life in their own land, and they will know that I am God." God showed that He is I AM—the powerful God who gives life and does impossible things.

Christ Connection: *When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. But 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.*

Picture Card Lesson

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you!

Ezekiel — *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

Card 1: Ezekiel was with God's people when they were taken far away to Babylon. Even while they were far away, God was still with them. God gave Ezekiel a special vision to help the people understand who He is.

Card 2: In the vision, Ezekiel saw a valley filled with dry bones. The bones were old. God asked Ezekiel, "Can these bones live again?" Ezekiel answered, "God, only You know." God was about to show His amazing power.

Card 3: God told Ezekiel, "Talk to these bones for Me. Say, 'Dry bones, hear what God says: I will give you breath, and you will come to life. I will give you a body. Then you will know that I am God.'"

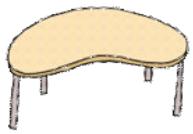
Card 4: Suddenly, the bones began to rattle and come together. Muscles and skin appeared on them, but they were not alive yet. Then God gave them breath, and the people came to life! God showed that He is I AM—the powerful God who gives life and does impossible things.

Card 5: God explained that the dry bones were like His people, who felt hopeless and forgotten. But God promised to bring them home again and give them new life. God is I AM.

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

Bible Storytelling Tips:

Act it out: Walk among the seated children as you tell the story, inviting them to stand as you describe the bones coming to life. Invite the children to take a deep breath at the appropriate time. Encourage them to follow you to another area of the room as you describe God's promise to bring His people home.



15 min Flight lab

Learning the story in an interactive way

Choose from below or use your own idea-however the Lord leads.

Then go into free-play.

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.

Dig for Bones

Before the session, gather clean, plastic dog bones or small edible dog bones. 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. 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.

Look at Fossils

Check out picture books about fossils from the local library. Allow children to look at the bones pictured in the books. Ask if the depicted animals can come back to life.

- God asked Ezekiel, "Can these bones come to life?" Ezekiel said, "God, only You know if these bones can come to life." God showed Ezekiel that He could bring dry bones back together into a living body. When we disobey God, we are like the dead bones God showed Ezekiel. 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.

Blow Bubbles

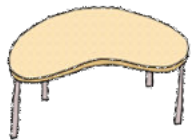
Provide bubble solution and wands to blow bubbles for the children to pop. As the children play, talk about how your breath makes the bubbles.

- God showed Ezekiel some dry bones. Breath came back into the bones and they became alive. God gave His people hope. God gives us hope through Jesus. **GOD PLANNED TO SEND JESUS.**

Make Breath Art

Provide heavyweight paper, individually wrapped drinking straws, and watered down washable tempera paint. Give each child a painting smock. Place drops of paint on each child's paper. Invite her to blow into the straw to disperse the paint.

- God showed Ezekiel some dry bones. In the vision, God breathed on the bones and they came alive! God gives us hope through Jesus. **GOD PLANNED TO SEND JESUS** to rescue us.



5 Min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to go home

After flight lab, allow the children to play. **When congregation begins last song, move to the tables.**

Pause and settle

- Signal the end of free play, (use the time-timer to count down)
- Sing the clean-up song and guide children to clean their areas. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer if needed.
- Have children sit around the table.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

- After prayer, hand out the activity/coloring page. Direct children accordingly to complete the page. Remind children of what they can take away from today's lesson.

If a child finishes the activity/coloring page while waiting for mom and dad or is not interested, only offer options that can be completed at the table (play dough, puzzle, select a book to examine, practice the verse, etc) **Keep children at the table to maintain a calm and quiet environment for easy transition to mom and dad.**

When parents pick up their children, as appropriate share something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the morning.

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents. Have your Co-Pilot encourage parents to use this to talk to their kids about what they learned in class today.

PREK/K Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain — in small groups, ask children for their prayer requests and have the Pilot or Co-Pilot write them on a few strips of paper. Connect strips into a chain and display our growing conversation with the Lord. Feel free to revisit old prayer requests as well.

Pointing to a Globe — Have a child or Co-Pilot spin the globe and place their finger on a country. Place a star sticker on the place(s) and pray over it as a group. We will provide a PreK/K age geography book to help guide discussion and prayer. 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 or draw these things on the window then pray over them.

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.

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.)