

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Vision 2:28 - Week of November 16

Opening

Think of a time you experienced dryness. In this time of dryness, did someone come alongside you and do for you what you could not do for yourself?

Introduction

After the fall of Jerusalem, Ezekiel, a young priest thirty years old, found himself among the Judean exiles by the Kebar River in Babylon. In exile, the LORD came and did for Ezekiel what he could not do for himself. God helped Ezekiel understand why judgment fell upon his people and their land. When everything in Ezekiel's world folded, God reminded him that he loves him and still reigns in glorious splendor. The LORD allowed Ezekiel to see visions and receive messages for the Judeans in exile with him (Ezekiel 1:1, 26-28; 3:1).

Ezekiel was obedient to the assignments, unique visions, and prophetic words God instructed him to pass on to the people. He was like a watchman on the wall, warning God's people to turn from sin and turn to God. There is still hope for those who repent and align themselves with God's words of truth.

Background

Just prior to Jerusalem's fall to the Babylonians, Jeremiah had been instructed to announce this message from the LORD:

This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel says: "Even now, if you quit your evil ways, I will let you stay in your own land. But don't be fooled by those who promise you safety because the LORD's Temple is here ... Don't be fooled into thinking that you will never suffer because the Temple is here. It's a lie! Do you really think you can steal, murder, commit adultery, lie, and burn incense to Baal and all those other new gods of yours, and then come here and stand before me in my Temple and chant, 'We are Safe!' – only to go right back to those evils again? Don't you yourselves admit that this Temple, which bears my name, has become a den of thieves? Surely I see all the evil going on there. I, the LORD, have spoken!" (Jeremiah 7:3-4a, 8-11).

As history shows us, warnings were not heeded. As a result, chapters 22-24 of Ezekiel reveal how God's people were held accountable, right alongside the surrounding nations (chapters 25-30) as judgment fell through Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians.

Discussion:

- No one is exempt from being held accountable by God. Are you seeking life or death by your actions and choices? Are you *speaking* life or death in the words that flow from your heart? Think about it for a moment, then read Matthew 15:10-20.
- If your life is out of alignment, the Good News is, God is a good God! He is a loving parent, who loves us – seeks life *and speaks life* – over each of us when we find ourselves amidst dryness and death. Think of a time the Lord did for you what you could not do for yourself. How is he prompting you, in turn, to be there for others?

Read Ezekiel 37:1-8

Discussion:

- Perhaps the scene before you is bleak and you are asking, *How did my home dry up? Why did this marriage dry up?* Why did the Lord show Ezekiel this valley (v1-2)?
- Why (in your opinion) did the Lord ask Ezekiel the question: "Son of man, can these bones become living people again (v3a)?"
- What do you make of Ezekiel's response "O Sovereign LORD ... You alone know the answer to that" (v3b)... what does Ezekiel's response say about his heart's posture?

Read Ezekiel 37:9-14

Many churches are filled with people who appear to be alive, but there is no breath in them. At one point, someone did for Christ Church what Christ Church could not do for itself. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit from Ezekiel, as well as the following references?

Genesis 1:1-2 Ezekiel 36:22-28 John 14:19-21
Acts 2:1-4 Revelation 22:17

Job, exiled in personal suffering said of the Lord: "His Spirit made the heavens beautiful, and his power pierced the gliding serpent" (Job 26:13). There is no beauty apart from God's Spirit and no victory apart from God's spoken word. However, there is power and authority in aligning our lives with God's Word. Often as we respond in faith and obedience, others will follow our lead. Praise God Ezekiel obeyed and spoke the prophetic messages given by the Lord! Will you, as well? May we be bold like watchmen on the wall – despite fear, disease, bleak dryness – we resolve to live into truth and speak words of life over our homes. When God's people align with God's Word, dry bones (even the winds!) respond to the power of his Word. For when Jesus speaks as the *Word made flesh*, his voice causes the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, and the dry bones to live and become a mighty army.

In Closing

There are miracles awaiting should we choose to align with God's spoken Word. Think about it: it was **"while Jesus was preaching God's Word to them"** four men arrive carrying a paralyzed friend on his mat" ... These faithful friends *did for the man what he could not do for himself*. By faith, they ripped off the tiles and lowered the man "right down in front of Jesus" (see Mark 2:1-12). There is power in preaching God's Word and living God's Word.

The connection for us today? Jesus came to bring God's Spirit back to the people of Israel and to all who call upon the name of the Lord. He said of himself: "I tell you, there is one here who is even greater than the Temple!" (Matthew 12:6) and yes, just as he cleansed the Temple from evil hirelings (the second Temple, restored by Herod in 20/19 BC), Jesus will clean our temple and breathe life into the dry bones waiting to live again (Luke 19:45-48, John 2:13-22). May we be ready for worship and faithful service to the thousands around us.

Pray for Vision 2:28—

This is our opportunity to align with God's spoken Word, live generously, and do for others what they cannot do for themselves.

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

November 16: Ezekiel 33:1-34:31, Hebrews 13:1-25, Psalm 115:1-18, Proverbs 27:21-22
November 17: Ezekiel 35:1-36:38, James 1:1-18, Psalm 116:1-19, Proverbs 27:23-27
November 18: Ezekiel 37:1-38:23, James 1:19-2:17, Psalm 117:1-2, Proverbs 28:1
November 19: Ezekiel 39:1-40:27, James 2:18-3:18, Psalm 118:1-18, Proverbs 28:2
November 20: Ezekiel 40:28-41:26, James 4:1-17, Psalm 118:19-29, Proverbs 28:3-5
November 21: Ezekiel 42:1-43:27, James 5:1-20, Psalm 119:1-16, Proverbs 28:6-7
November 22: Ezekiel 44:1-45:12, 1 Peter 1:1-12, Psalm 119:17-32, Proverbs 28:8-10



Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Luke 7:11-15, Hebrews 13:5-9, 15-16

Plain Truth

Jesus gave us _____ as he _____ for us
what we could _____ for ourselves.

1. Dry _____ were everywhere due to a _____
of personal _____.
2. Dry bones can _____ by speaking _____
and living _____ for Christ!

November 16, 2025