



Worship Illustration: Script
The Love Sub
Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi
Unit 9, Lesson 43

Ezekiel and the Dry Bones

Habakkuk 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Setting: The Love Sub scripts (Lessons 35-52) will be set onboard a kaleidoscopic submarine in the late 1960's. The set is designed to look like the interior of an old submarine that also serves as a time travel device. There is a sliding board (the Time Tube) used for the entrance of visitors from the past and a ramp (or steps) to invite children up to participate in object lessons. There are two working portholes; the stage left porthole squirts water and the stage right porthole contains the Bible. Everything is painted in vibrant colors and has 1960's decor. For extra fun, build windows where characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Woodstock P. Havens is an inventor, explorer, and submarine pilot from the hippie era of the late 1960's. He is very "cool" and relaxed and he loves to study the prophets. Shiloh is Woodstock's nephew. He is very easygoing and easily amused. "Handsome" is a human hand (Actor's body is hidden except for his hand.) Handsome assists everyone by handing them props.

Plot: Woodstock tells Shiloh how God told Ezekiel to prophesy over a valley full of dry bones and how God made the dry bones come to life. We learn that only God can give us a new heart, a new spirit, and a new life in Him.

Costumes: Woodstock wears a tie-dyed shirt, wig, furry vest, glasses, and brightly colored pants and shoes. Shiloh wears 1960's clothes, sandals, a blonde wig, and sunglasses.

Props: Bible, stack of letters, envelope full of sand, box of chicken wing bones

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: 1960's Surfer music
2. Porthole music suggestion: Song about God's power such as "Power in the Blood"
3. 3 dings: Microwave timer dings or bells
4. Submarine alarm sounds, bells
5. Warning siren
6. Choice bell
7. Promise fanfare

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring animated submarine is available at ResourceWell.org.
2. Stage right porthole holds the Bible. When it opens, a light shines out and music plays.
3. Warning Lights: Red beacons
4. Warning Slide: **"Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the sovereign Lord." Ezekiel 18:30a**
5. Choice Lights: Blinking spotlight
6. Choice Slide: **"Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall." Ezekiel 18:30b**
7. Promise Lights: Flashing lights
8. Promise Slide: **"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26**
9. Fallback Slide: **No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!**

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form located at ResourceWell.org

The Love Sub
Unit 9, Lesson 43
Ezekiel and the Dry Bones
Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6

Video Intro: (available at ResourceWell.org) (VFX: Scientific images, SFX: Newsreel music) **Since the dawn of man, scientists have longed to travel through time! In the late 1960's a crack team of geniuses combined their talents to attempt to break the time barrier. In the Florida Keys, Dr. Woodstock P. Havens was given the task of building a special space shuttle— (SFX: Record scratch) Woodstock: Yeah, but I decided to make a submarine instead, man! (SFX: Intro music, VFX: Animated sub) So, come on and join me as we float through time. Climb aboard the Love Sub!**

Woodstock (enters carrying letters) **Hey, dudes, welcome back to "The Love Sub!" I've been really busy ever since I got back. All my new prophet friends have become my pen pals, and, man, do those dudes like to talk! It's gonna take me a long time to get through all these letters.**

Shiloh (Shiloh enters in a hurry and bumps into Woodstock.) **Sorry, Uncle Woodstock. Handsome promised to give me some delicious barbecue chicken wings, and, man, am I ever hungry!**

Woodstock
Dude, you're always hungry.

Shiloh
No doubt about it, man. So, what are you doing?

Woodstock
Just answering some mail.

Shiloh
Mail? Who's it from Uncle Woody?

Woodstock
This one's from my old buddy, Ezekiel.

Shiloh
Ezekiel! That dude's like a major prophet. Open it up!

Woodstock (pours out sand)
It's full of sand! That Ezekiel, that's his way of warning us not to let our spirits dry up. He just loves a good word picture. There was this other time when God gave Ezekiel a vision of a valley and there was something weird about it ... only I can't remember what it was— (SFX: 3 dings) (Handsome pops up holding a box of chicken wings.)

Shiloh
Dude, you got my wings! Awesome! (opens box) Hey, you ate them all! (Handsome disappears.) Get back here you greedy, little hand! What am I supposed to do with a box of dry bones?

Woodstock (takes box)
That's it! The dry bones!

Shiloh
Yeah, sorry, man, no meat left on those bones.

Woodstock
No. That is what God showed Ezekiel! He saw a valley full of dry bones and God told Ezekiel to prophesy over the bones.

Shiloh
Whoa, he talked to a pile of dry bones. That dude's freaky!

Woodstock
No! The dry bones were God's way of showing us He can bring new life to anyone or anything, even a valley full of bones!

Shiloh

You get new life from talking to bones?
Man, my dog is gonna live forever.

Woodstock

We don't get life from the bones. God brought the bones to life! Here, let me show you. (Opens stage right porthole and removes Bible, SFX: Porthole music, VFX: Beam of light shines from porthole) **Dude, here it is!**

Shiloh

Dude, you're gonna need all the power you can find to help me understand this one!

Woodstock

That's just the point; God has all the power! God told Ezekiel to speak to the bones and tell them God would connect them so they were whole bodies with tendons and skin. Then, God was going to breathe life into them.

Shiloh

That's impossible, dude.

Woodstock

That's the point, man. God made it happen in front of Ezekiel's eyes. Let me ask you a question. What is deadlier than dry bones?

Shiloh

Is this a riddle? Nothing, man. There's nothing deadlier than dry bones!

Woodstock

And yet, God made a whole valley of bones into human bodies that stood to their feet like an army!

Shiloh

Wait, God made an entire army of *bones* get up and walk? Dude, that would freak me out!

Woodstock

No, the bones didn't walk around. God connected the bones to make people with muscles and skin and everything. Then, those people stood on their feet like an army. God was showing His people that He

is the only one who can give us new life. Their sins made them dry inside, like those dry bones, but they could have new life if they would turn to Him. Ezekiel knew turning to God was important because he knew God would judge them. God said:

"Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the sovereign Lord."
Ezekiel 18:30a

(SFX: Warning siren, VFX: Warning lights and slide)

Shiloh

That Ezekiel dude must be loads of fun at a party.

Woodstock

No, dude, Ezekiel wasn't trying to freak people out, he was just telling his friends what God had told him! Repent! That means turn away from sin and turn back to God. Read the next part.

Shiloh

"Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall."

(SFX: Choice bell, VFX: Choice lights and slide)

Woodstock

See, man? That's the choice! When we turn to God, He forgives us. When we turn to God, we are choosing a new life.

Shiloh

So, what do you get if you choose life?

Woodstock

Only this promise! (SFX: Promise signal, VFX: Promise lights and slide)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God." Ezekiel 36:26-28

Shiloh

Dude, that is a sweet promise!

Woodstock

I told you Ezekiel was cool.

Shiloh

So, are you saying God can give all us a new heart, a new spirit, and a new life?

Woodstock

Yup, and He can do it as easily as He brought those bones to life!

Shiloh

Man, just think of how much more you could love people with a new heart. (SFX: 3 dings) (Handsome pops up.) I might even be willing to forgive a certain chicken stealing hand! Come here, Handsome. I forgive you. (He hugs Handsome.)

Woodstock

Dude, when God gives you a new a heart you just want to love everyone—

Shiloh

Even chicken thieves! (Handsome gives a thumbs up.)

Woodstock

You know what, kids? We're gonna pray that God gives a new heart, a new spirit, and a new life to each and every one of you. Until next time, "No matter where you are in time," say it with us, "God is good all the time!" (SFX: Intro/outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(exit)