



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi
Unit 9, Lesson 43

Ezekiel and the Dry Bones

Lesson Aim: To understand what it means to have a new heart and a new life. (Salvation Message)

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is the strangest thing you have ever seen?

GAME: Ezekiel's Bones Match

THE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO IS LORD OF ALL

Read Worship Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook.

THE WORD EZEKIEL'S MESSAGE AND VISION FROM GOD

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: Habakkuk wrote down God's answers to his questions.

Today, we will hear about Ezekiel, a prophet to the Jewish people in Babylon. Point to Babylon. Point to Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.). Ezekiel spoke God's Word to the people who were captured and taken to Babylon. They said their sins were weighing them down. God gave Ezekiel visions and told him what to say. He told the people about God's promise of a new heart, a new spirit, and a new life! Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6. Find and Highlight Key Verse First: Ezekiel 36:26. Pray. Read.

THE WAY A NEW HEART, SPIRIT, AND LIFE

What was God's warning? (He would judge them for their choices.) How do you feel when you have done wrong in God's eyes? The people felt as if their wrongdoings (sins) were weighing them down. How is a heart that is heavy with sin like a heart of stone? What choice did God give the Israelites? (To repent, which means to turn away from sin, and turn to God.) The way we "turn to God" is to turn away from doing things our own way and turn to doing things God's way.

God promises a new heart to anyone who turns to Him. When He replaces our sinful hearts with a new heart, whose spirit does He put in us? (His Holy Spirit.) By sending Jesus, God made the way for

this promise to come true. You may not feel different, but your new heart helps you love others the way God loves them. The Holy Spirit helps you do things God's way instead of your own. The Holy Spirit helps you point others to Jesus. If you have Jesus in your heart, how has your new heart changed the way you feel about God and others? Can you share a time when the Holy Spirit has helped you change from making a wrong choice to a right one? How have you seen a loved one change after getting a new heart from God?

Let's take a quiet moment to help our hearts and minds listen to God. There are three different prayers you can choose to pray.

Prayer 1: If you have Jesus in your heart, pray silently. Thank Him for being Lord of your life. Ask Him to help you follow Him.

Prayer 2: If you are not ready to ask Jesus to come into your heart, use this time to pray silently that He will help you know Him better.

Prayer 3: If you are ready to ask Jesus to come into your heart, and to be Lord of your life, pray with me. Lead in the ABC Prayer.

When you ask Jesus to be Lord of your life, the Holy Spirit comes into your heart and your heart is like new. God gives you a new life forever close to Him. The vision of the dry bones is about that new life. We can't earn or make ourselves a new heart. This new heart and new life is God's free gift to all who believe in Jesus as Lord.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Over 600 years after Ezekiel saw the dry bones receive new life, Paul explained this gift by using the word grace. Grace is giving people something good they do not deserve. It is by God's grace that He gives us a new heart and a new life forever close with Him. Reveal Ephesians 2:8-10. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Stone (draw on a heart with a cross inside)
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: Ezekiel seeing the dry bones come to life
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Pretzel People

GAME: Weighed Down Relay

CRAFT: New Heart

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Praise Tag, Four Praise Corners

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW