



Ezekiel and the Dry Bones

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

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Is Lord of All

THE WORD

Bible Story: Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6

What He has done: God gave Ezekiel the dry bones vision and the promise of a new heart.

Key Verse: Ezekiel 36:26

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Ephesians 2:8-10

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	Ezekiel and the Dry Bones, Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6	God gave Ezekiel the dry bones vision and the promise of a new heart.	To understand what it means to have a new heart and a new life. (Salvation Message)
44	Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace, Daniel 3:12-29; 4:3	God was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace and protected them from the flames.	To show God is present and our faith is strengthened when we unite.
45	Daniel and the Lions' Den, Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23, 26-27; 9:4-5, 16a	God protected Daniel from the lions.	To live a life of prayer in a trusting relationship with God.
46	Zechariah and the Flying Scroll, Zechariah 1:3; 4:6; 5:1-4; 9:9	God gave Zechariah a message about returning to the Lord.	To know the Holy Spirit will help us return to God, put Him first, and make good choices.
47	Malachi and God's Message of Tithing, Malachi 2:2; 3:1, 7-10	God challenged His people to give Him their tithes and offerings.	To know giving our tithes and offerings brings us closer to God.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 71:14-19. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for rescuing the lost. Fill Your children with Your Spirit so they might know the salvation that comes from You alone. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Ezekiel's Bones Match	Sturdy white paper, roll of tape for each team
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Chosen People" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At the Name of Jesus" "I Am the Way" "Not by Might" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" "Prepare to Meet Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "I Love You, Lord" "Fairest Lord Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 43 The Love Sub script or storybook
		Read the Word: Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WORD	Up to 10	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Ephesians 2:8-10	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
THE WAY	Up to 25	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Small stone, permanent markers, Daily Ways, basket, copies of Children's Guide for New Believers, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Chosen People," CD player
	Final 5		
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Pretzel People	Pretzel sticks, small and large marshmallows
	Up to 10	Game: Weighed Down Relay	2 heavy objects (e.g., buckets of sand, stacks of books, backpacks or bags with handles filled with heavy items), floor tape, 2 chairs
	Up to 15	Craft: New Heart	Sturdy red and white paper, additional sturdy paper, red cellophane, red crayon, scissors, pencils, transparent tape, optional: red permanent marker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Praise Tag	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Four Praise Corners	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, tape, four signs titled as follows: Chosen People, Royal Priesthood, Holy Nation, People Belonging to God
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is the strangest thing you have ever seen?

GAME: EZEKIEL'S BONES MATCH

Purpose: Children will be introduced to the story of Ezekiel and the vision of the dry bones.

Supplies: Sturdy white paper, roll of tape for each team

Prepare: Find or draw a picture of a simple human skeleton that covers a standard-size sheet of paper or larger. Copy or print one picture for each child. For each picture, cut puzzle pieces so the head, legs, arms, feet, hands, and torso are separated. Mix all the puzzle pieces together for all the pictures and scatter them face down on the floor.

God formed us; He made every bone in our bodies. He has a plan and purpose for each and every bone. Let's see how quickly we can gather and put together puzzle pieces to form complete skeletons.

Directions:

1. Divide children into teams of 4 or 5 children.
2. Give a roll of tape to each team.
3. On your signal, teams search for the puzzle pieces they need to put together a complete skeleton for each person on their team.
4. The goal is to be the first team to put together a complete skeleton for each person on the team.

God gave Ezekiel a vision about an entire valley filled with dry bones. This must have seemed very strange to Ezekiel. Let's find out what happened in the vision!



The God who is Lord of all

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Today, we worship the God who is Lord of all. He reigns over heaven and earth. That's why the prophet Ezekiel called Him "Sovereign Lord." When God gave Ezekiel messages for the people, He told him to begin the messages by saying, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says." Sovereign means ruling over everyone and everything. For those of us who believe in Jesus as Lord, He is Lord over our hearts and our lives. That means we love Him, obey Him, and we put Him first in our lives. When you ask Jesus to come into your heart, God forgives you for all of your sins (wrongdoings). The Holy Spirit comes into your heart and your heart is like new. God gives you life forever close to Him here on earth and later in heaven.



Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.



As a people belonging to God, let's declare His praises! We can praise Him with our voices and our offerings to the church. Sing the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Chosen People" as the offering is collected. You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus as Lord of all.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 43.



Introduce the prayer of salvation now with SALVATION MESSAGE: A NEW HEART (available at ResourceWell.org), the prayer of salvation below, or later in THE WAY.

If you have never invited Jesus to come into your heart and you would like to do that now, let's pray the ABC Prayer together. Invite children who want to ask Jesus to be their Savior and Lord to pray the ABC Prayer (or a similar prayer of salvation) with you.

ABC PRAYER (Admit – Believe – Come)

Lord Jesus,

I Admit I am a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.



When you pray a prayer like that to Jesus, you belong to Him forever! Close with a song of celebration such as "At the Name of Jesus."



Ezekiel's message and vision from God

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned the prophet Habakkuk wrote down God's answers to his questions. One answer God gave was, "The righteous will live by faith." Today, we will hear about another prophet. Ezekiel was a prophet to the Jewish people in Babylon. If a map is available, point to Ancient Babylon. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

The prophet Ezekiel spoke God's Word to the people who were captured and taken to Babylon. They were forced to live there in exile. To be in exile means to be away from your home country. They said their sins were weighing them down. God gave Ezekiel visions and told him what to tell the people. He told them about God's promise of a new heart, a new spirit, and a new life!



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28, 37:4-6. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Ezekiel 36:26.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Let's begin with the warning and the choice Ezekiel gives us. Read Ezekiel 18:30.

Check out the promise God told Ezekiel to give to the people. Read Ezekiel 36:26-28.

Right after making that promise, God gave Ezekiel a vision showing the Sovereign Lord had the power to keep that promise. To prove to the people that He was the Sovereign Lord, He showed Ezekiel a vision of a valley filled with dry bones. Check out what God told Ezekiel to say to the bones in that vision. Read Ezekiel 37:4-6.

In the vision, Ezekiel watched as the bones connected and were covered with muscles and skin. When God gave them breath, they came to life and stood up as an army.



A new heart, spirit, and life

THE WAY

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?** (Children respond.) **The Israelites felt as if their wrongdoings (sins) were weighing them down.** **How is a heart that is heavy with sin like a heart of stone?** (Children respond.) **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. Your heart is new and different because it now puts God first. 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 way. The Holy Spirit helps you point others to Jesus. For any of you who have asked Jesus to come into your heart, how has your new heart changed the way you feel about God and others?** (Children respond.) **Can you share a time when the Holy Spirit in your heart has helped you change from making a wrong choice to making a right one?** (Children respond.) **How have you seen a loved one change after getting a new heart from God?** (Children respond.)

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. Pray the prayers below simultaneously.

Prayer 1: If you have already asked Jesus to come into your heart, pray silently and thank Him for being Lord of your life. Ask Him to help you follow Him every day.

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, kneel down with me. I'll say the words to pray and then you say them aloud after me.

Lead any child expressing desire to pray in the ABC Prayer (located in THE WORSHIP segment).

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. Just as the bones can't give themselves 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.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

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.



FIND IT FIRST Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Ephesians 2:8-10. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a small stone. On the stone, draw a heart with a cross inside it. Have permanent markers available for children to use. Let it remind you of Ezekiel's message that God promised to remove our hearts of stone and give us new hearts.

CHILDREN'S GUIDE FOR NEW BELIEVERS: Supply any child who prayed the ABC Prayer or another prayer of salvation today with a Children's Guide for New Believers (available at ResourceWell.org) for the next steps in nurturing spiritual growth. Print the date and the child's name on the inside cover.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 43 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Ezekiel seeing the dry bones come to life.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Chosen People," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: PRETZEL PEOPLE

Purpose: Children eat a snack as they discuss how God gives new life.

Snack Suggestion: Pretzel sticks, small and large marshmallows

Ezekiel called God “Sovereign Lord” because He is the Lord who reigns over all. That means He rules over everyone and everything. God gives us all life, just as He gave life to the bones in Ezekiel’s vision. Imagine these pretzel sticks are bones. We will use small marshmallows to connect the “bones.” In the vision, God gave the dried old bones new life. What else did we learn today that God can give to us? (A new heart and His Spirit.)

Directions:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Children form people shapes using the pretzels for the body and limbs, small marshmallows for the joints, and a large marshmallow for the head.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **“What is the funniest dream you’ve ever had?”**

GAME: WEIGHED DOWN RELAY

Purpose: Children remember our sins can be like a heavy stone weighing us down. If we turn to God, He will lift that burden.

Supplies: 2 heavy objects (e.g., buckets of sand, stacks of books, backpacks or bags with handles filled with heavy items), floor tape, 2 chairs

Prepare: Use floor tape to mark a starting line for each team. Place a chair for each team at the other end of the play area.

Teacher’s Tip: Adjust the size and weight of the heavy objects you choose to fit the age of the children in your class. Backpacks may be a safer option, especially for younger children. You may choose to only allow the children to walk quickly rather than run.

The Israelites knew they were making choices that were wrong in God’s eyes. They felt as if their wrongdoings (sins) were weighing them down. In this relay, you will be weighed down with heavy objects. Let’s see how that affects the race.

Directions:

1. Divide children into two teams. Teams line up behind their start lines.
2. On your signal, the first child on each team picks up the heavy object, runs across the room, around his or her team’s chair, and back to the start line.
3. He or she tags the next child in line and that repeats the relay.
4. The first team to have everyone complete the relay, wins.
5. Play again, but this time run the relay without carrying the heavy object.

Which relay was easier? (Children respond.) **When we sin, we may feel weighed down like we did in the first relay. What can we do to be freed from that burden?** (Children respond.) **When we repent, which means to turn away from sin, and turn to God, He will give us a new heart, a new spirit, and a new life!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: NEW HEART

Purpose: Children will make a heart craft to help them remember God forgives them and gives them a new heart.

Supplies: Sturdy red and white paper, additional sturdy paper, red cellophane, red crayon, scissors, pencils, transparent tape, optional: red permanent marker

Prepare: Draw and cut out large heart templates and small cross templates from sturdy paper.

Teacher Tip: If the cellophane is not dark enough to hide the word SIN written in red crayon, darken the cellophane by coloring it with a red permanent marker. Any flexible, clear plastic (plastic food wrap, sandwich bags, transparencies, or lighting gels) can be colored with red permanent marker.

What did Ezekiel report that God said about our hearts? (God said He will remove our hearts of stone, give us a new heart, and put His Holy Spirit in us.) **When we believe in Jesus as Lord, Jesus forgives us for our sins (wrongdoings). Once we are forgiven, He makes our hearts new and put the Holy Spirit in us.**

Directions:

1. From sturdy white paper, trace the large heart template and cut out the heart shape.
2. From sturdy red paper, trace the large heart template and cut out the heart shape.
3. Trace the small cross template onto the center of the red heart and cut it out so there is a cross-shaped hole.
4. Lay the red heart on top of the white heart. Using a red crayon, write the word SIN on the white heart so the word fits inside the cross-shaped hole.
5. Pick up the red heart and tape a piece of red cellophane to the back so the cross-shaped hole is covered.

Put the white heart under the red heart so the word SIN is under the red cellophane. Can you see the word SIN? (No.) It has disappeared! The cross stands for the complete forgiveness given to anyone who believes in Jesus as Lord. It's as if our sins disappear because of the cross.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

GAME: PRAISE TAG

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster

Read the Bible Memory Verse. **In our Bible Memory Verse, Peter gives four titles to describe people who believe in Jesus. What are they?** (A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God.) **What is the reason given for why God has chosen people to belong to Him?** (So we may declare His praises.) **The verse says God brought us out of darkness, which we call sin, and into His light, which is life with the Holy Spirit living in our hearts and leading us to do things God's way. When we have Jesus in our hearts, we want to praise God! Let's declare our praise to Him while we play Praise Tag!**

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be "It."
2. On your signal, "It" chases the other children and attempts to tag (touch) one of them.
3. If "It" successfully tags another child, then the tagged child becomes the new "It."
4. Children can be safe from being tagged for 10 seconds by shouting a sentence of praise to God: **"I praise God for a truth about who God is or what He has done."** The child then sits and counts aloud to 10. Children may do this as often as they like. You may choose to require children think of a new praise each time.

Limited space? Children sit in a circle. "It" spins a spinner from any board game (or make your own using a paper plate, a paper fastener, and a straw). The child the arrow points to shouts a praise sentence to God. That child becomes the new "It" and spins the arrow. Play until each child has at least one turn shouting praise to God. To add difficulty, require the praises be related to a specific topic such as the previous week's Bible story, creation, family, etc.

GAME: FOUR PRAISE CORNERS

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, tape, four signs titled as follows: Chosen People, Royal Priesthood, Holy Nation, People Belonging to God

Prepare: Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

Directions:

1. Point out the four corners as the four titles Peter gave to describe people who believe in Jesus.
2. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room, close his or her eyes, and count aloud to 10.
3. The other children rush to stand in a corner before the Caller says, "10."
4. The Caller keeps his or her eyes closed and calls out a corner name.
5. The children in that corner recite the Bible Memory Verse together. As needed, they may read from the Bible Memory Verse poster.
6. Choose another Caller and play again. Allow all the children to remain in the game.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) Before Jeremiah was born, God had chosen him to be His prophet to the nations. He told Jeremiah exactly how to use items such as a linen belt and a clay jar to explain God's plans for those who seek Him and for those who do not. Jeremiah's main message was God has a plan for all who seek Him. What did God promise would happen if you seek Him with all your heart? (You will find Him.)

Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) Habakkuk asked God questions. God told him to write the answers down and send them to the people. Habakkuk asked God why He allowed wrongdoing to go unpunished. He decided that even though times were hard, he would rejoice in the Lord. God said, "The righteous will live by faith." What does that mean to you? (To trust God no matter what.)

Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) Ezekiel was a priest and prophet who lived in Babylon with the other Israelites who had been taken captive from their homes in Israel and forced to live and work in Babylon. What do you remember about the vision God gave Ezekiel about the valley of dry bones? (Children respond.) The vision of the dry bones gave us a picture of God's gift of new life. What did God promise Ezekiel about our hearts? (To anyone who turns to Him, He promises to give a new heart and to put His Holy Spirit in us.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)