



# Ezekiel and the River

Lesson Aim: To know life and growth come from God.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The God Who Is Lord of All

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Ezekiel 47:1-12

**What He Has Done:** God gave Ezekiel a vision of a river flowing out of the temple.

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6

Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	Ezekiel and the Sheep, Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31	God showed Ezekiel that we are like sheep and He is the shepherd.	To know God will care for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep.
44	Ezekiel and the River, Ezekiel 47:1-12	God gave Ezekiel a vision of a river flowing out of the temple.	To know life and growth come from God.
45	Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace, Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28	God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace.	To know God is with you wherever you go.
46	Daniel and the Lions' Den, Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27	God kept Daniel safe from the lions.	To know God keeps us safe.
47	Daniel's Dream About Heaven, Daniel 7:1, 13-14	God gave Daniel a dream about Jesus' return.	To know we will see Jesus coming with the clouds one day.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Isaiah 43. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for choosing us to belong to You. Thank You for Your love that brings life and for being with us when we gather in Your name. Amen."

## TEACHER'S TIP

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Take time to talk about all the things God has made and how His creation praises His name. The children can pretend to be various animals and imitate their movements and sounds while the Bible Memory Verse Song is playing.

Permission is granted to reproduce these materials. Not for resale. Use is subject to the Terms of Use available at ResourceWell.org. Terms are subject to change without notice. All other rights are reserved.



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Welcome</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a fruit or a heart
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> Ezekiel and the River	Coloring pages of a temple (church) by a river, crayons
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> By the River	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, blue strip of paper
		<b>Game Center:</b> "Growing Things" Matching Game	10 Laminated postcard-sized pictures (baby, adult, calf, cow, lamb, sheep, fawn, deer, chick, hen)
		<b>Bible Memory Verse Center:</b> Bubbling Praise	Bubbles, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"
	Up to 5	<b>Prepare for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <b>Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Let Everything That Has Breath" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Be Still and Know" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Lift Up My Eyes" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "The Lord Is Faithful"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 44
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Ezekiel 47:1-12	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Ezekiel 47:12 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, baby doll wrapped in a blanket
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> God's River of Life	Sturdy white paper, craft foam, glue, crayons (metallic crayons or crayons containing glitter are recommended)
		<b>Game:</b> River of Life	Large cross (cut from poster paper or bind two sticks with cord), large blue cloth or sheet
		<b>Game:</b> What's Growing?	Large blue cloth or sheet
		<b>Snack:</b> Fruit by the River	Any fruit
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9, Lesson 44
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Ezekiel 47:1-12	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Praise Balloon	Balloon
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Instrument Praise	Children's musical instruments, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about how God gives life to His creation

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who is Lord of all

## **THE WELCOME**

### **WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of fruit or a heart. **Let this stamp (or sticker) help you remember God gives life to everything and everyone.**

**Teacher's Note:** These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

### **COLORING CENTER: EZEKIEL AND THE RIVER**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring pages of a temple (church) by a river, crayons

#### **DO**

Children color the picture while talking about today's story.

#### **TALK ABOUT**

**What do you see in the picture?** (Children respond.) **In our story today, a man named Ezekiel has a dream about a river. The river was flowing out of God's temple. Temple is another name for church. God wanted Ezekiel to know that He gives life to everything.**

### **PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: BY THE RIVER**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, blue strip of paper

#### **DO**

Children play with the play-dough while talking about rivers. Encourage children to make river animals and plants with the play-dough.

#### **TALK ABOUT**

Place the blue strip of paper down the center of the table. **Let's pretend this is a river. What animals do we find in a river?** (Fish, turtles, alligators, etc.) **What animals live near or on the river?** (Ducks, snakes, otters, etc.) **Let's make some animals for our river out of the play-dough.** Encourage the children to make river animals and plants to put near the blue strip of paper.

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## GAME CENTER: "GROWING THINGS" MATCHING GAME

### SUPPLIES

10 Laminated postcard-sized pictures (baby, adult, calf, cow, lamb, sheep, fawn, deer, chick, hen)

### DO

Lay the pictures out face down in random order on the floor or the table. Work together with the children to turn two pictures over at a time to find matches. When a match is found, talk about the pictures. Ask which is the baby and which is the adult.

### TALK ABOUT

**Who created you? (God.) Who created the world? (God.) That's right. God created everything in the world. When you were born, were you as big as you are now? (No, you were a baby.) Are you going to get bigger? (Yes.) Some day you will be a grown up like your Mom or Dad. Just like people, all animals start out as babies and get bigger as they grow. Let's see if we can match the babies to the grown-ups.**

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CENTER: BUBBLING PRAISE

### SUPPLIES

Bubbles, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"

### DO

Play the Bible Memory Verse Song and blow bubbles for the children to keep in the air with their breath.

### TALK ABOUT

**Our Bible Memory Verse says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names. The Lord wants everything that breathes to praise Him. Put your hands on your stomach as you breathe in and out. We can use our breath to keep bubbles in the air. Demonstrate by blowing bubbles and keeping them in the air by blowing on them. Let's listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song as we play.** Encourage the children to blow on the bubbles you make.

---

---

## PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away.** Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

### BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

<b>"Let everything</b>	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
<b>that has breath</b>	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
<b>praise</b>	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
<b>the Lord."</b>	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
<b>Psalms 150:6</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God who is Lord of all

# THE WORSHIP

**Supplies:** Praise music, optional: musical instruments

**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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



**I am so thankful you are here today. You are each very special.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for making us each special in our own way. We praise Your name. Amen.**



**God made the butterflies, and the birds, and the fish, and He made us! We are all God's special creations. Let's sing praises to Him.** Sing: "Sing Praises."

**Because God loved us, we know how to love one another. When we love one another, we are sharing His love. One way to share God's love with others is to give our offering to the church. The church's money goes to share God's love with many people all over the world.** Sing: "Love One Another" while collecting the offering.



**God gave a man named Ezekiel a dream of a river that was flowing out of God's temple. A temple is like a church. Just as a river brings life to the fish in its waters and the plant on its shores, God brings life to everyone. Let's find out if Delbert and Lello know about Ezekiel's dream.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 44.



**God gives life to everything. He wants everything that has breath to praise Him. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together.** Practice a few times with the motions.

**"Let everything** (everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.

**that has breath** (breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.

**praise** The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.

**the Lord."** (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

**Psalm 150:6** Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



**We can praise the Lord right now!** Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath." Add motions such as clapping, twirling, dancing, and jumping.



Ezekiel and the river

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Ezekiel 47:12, picture of the Bible story, baby doll wrapped in a blanket

**Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.**

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

**Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears.** Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Hold the baby in your arms. **When we are born, we all start out as little babies like this baby doll. What do babies do?** (Children respond.) **Are you a baby now?** (No.) **What can you do that a baby can't do?** (Children respond.) **Who helped you grow and get bigger?** (Children respond.) Note: Children may respond with Mom or Dad or another adult. If they do not answer, "God," ask them "Who makes you bigger?"

**God loves us so much that He gives life to us, to animals, and to plants and He makes everything grow. In our Bible story today, we will hear how Ezekiel's dream about a river showed him that God gives life to everyone and everything.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Ezekiel 47:12.



### EZEKIEL AND THE RIVER: EZEKIEL 47:1-12

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Ezekiel had a special dream,**
- **Where he saw a river flow.**
- **The river began at the temple,**
- **So it came from God, we know.**
  
- **It came up to Ezekiel's ankles.**
- **Then, it rose up to his knees.**
- **It grew so deep it filled with fish.**
- **On each side, grew many trees.**
  
- **Everywhere the river flowed,**
- **Plants and fruit trees grew.**
- **The river stands for the life God gives**
- **To the world and me and you.**

**What was growing by the river?** (Plants and fruit trees.) **What was the river filled with?** (Fish.) **What helps everything grow?** (God's love.)



Life flows from God

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: GOD'S RIVER OF LIFE**

**Purpose:** To remind the children that God gave Ezekiel a vision of a river flowing from the temple.

**Supplies:** Sturdy white paper, craft foam, glue, crayons (metallic crayons or crayons containing glitter are recommended)

**Prepare:** On a sheet of sturdy white paper, print or draw a church building or temple on the left. Draw the outline of a river beginning inside the church or temple and flowing across to the right side of the page. On the banks of the river, add outlines of trees, flowers, and animals. Across the top of the paper, print:

**The river from the temple brings life.**

**Ezekiel 47:1-12**

From craft foam, cut out the shape of a fish and two different types of fruit.

**Options:** Use adhesive-backed craft foam. Glue blue glitter or paint blue glitter paint on the river. Instead of craft foam, use cardboard, sturdy paper, or stickers. Cut out a cross shape for children to glue on the church.

**Adaptation for Ages 2-3:** Rather than having all the crayons out for children to use, you may choose to give them the color needed for each step as they need it. Talk about why we use yellow or gold for the temple. Ask them what color water is or trees are before giving them the appropriate crayons. Once the first three steps are complete, allow them to use all the crayons to finish their pictures.

#### **Directions:**

1. **The temple is God's house and it stands for God.** Children color the temple yellow or gold.
2. **The river stands for life.** Children color the river blue.
3. **God gives life to the plants.** Children color the trees.
4. **God makes the trees grow fruit.** Children glue the fruit to the trees.
5. **God gives life to the animals and people.** Children glue the fish in the river.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **In Ezekiel's dream, the river flowed from the temple. A temple is a church, God's house.**
- **Ezekiel knew that the temple in his dream stood for God and the river stood for life. Where does all life come from? (God.)**
- **Who helps you grow? (God.)**
- **Let's look at our crafts and see how everything comes to life and grows when the river touches it. Ezekiel's dream reminds us that just as God's river of life started at the temple, all life starts with God.**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: RIVER OF LIFE**

**Purpose:** Children will act out the Bible story and see how God makes everything grow.

**Supplies:** Large cross (cut from poster paper or bind two sticks with cord), large blue cloth or sheet

**Prepare:** Place the cross on one side of the play area to represent the church or temple. Lay the blue cloth on the floor as a river flowing out from the church or temple.

**Ezekiel dreamed about the river of life flowing from the temple. In his dream, the river brought life to everything it touched. In the same way, God gives life to everything and everyone. God helps us all live and grow.**

### **Directions:**

1. Stand in front of the cross.
2. The children are seeds and crouch on either side of river.
3. As you walk along the blue cloth and gently touch each child on the head, say, **"God gives life."**
4. When touched, the seeds "sprout" by standing up and spreading their arms to become trees.
5. Repeat the game, acting out different growing things such as:
  - Flowers: Spread hands open at the sides of their faces.
  - Bird: Flap wings and tweet like a bird.
  - Frog: Hop and ribbit like a frog.
  - Play as often as you like, acting out a different growing thing each time. Encourage children to make suggestions.

## **GAME: WHAT'S GROWING?**

**Purpose:** Children will consider living things to which God gives life.

**Supplies:** Large blue cloth or sheet

### **Directions:**

1. Children hold the edges of the sheet.
2. On your signal, the children make waves by moving the sheet up and down. **Look at the river flow!**
3. **In Ezekiel's dream, God's river of life makes everything grow. Let's jump in God's river of life.** Children sit on the edges of the sheet.
4. Call out one child's name. Child stands in the center of the sheet.
5. Child's name, **can you name a living thing God helps to live and grow?** Child calls out a living thing, such as a person's name, a pet's name, an animal, or a plant.
6. Child returns to the edge of the sheet.
7. Repeat steps 4-6 until each child has a turn answering the question.



# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: FRUIT BY THE RIVER**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack while discussing how God gives life.

**Snack Suggestion:** Any fruit

**Optional:** Spread a blue cloth or sheet as a river by which children can sit while eating their snack.

### **Directions:**

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,  
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **In Ezekiel's dream, God's river of life flows everywhere and makes things live and grow!**
  - **We are eating fruit. What is your favorite fruit?** (Children respond.)
  - **The river of life helped everything it touched live and grow. Who helps us grow and love others?** (God.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

<b>"Let everything</b>	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
<b>that has breath</b>	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
<b>praise</b>	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
<b>the Lord."</b>	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
<b>Psalms 150:6</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

### **PRAY**

**Let's pray together.** Say a closing prayer with the children.

### **PLAY**

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

### **DISMISSAL**

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SAY & DO: EZEKIEL 47:1-12**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Ezekiel had a special dream,** (Rest cheek on folded hands, as if sleeping.)
- **Where he saw a river flow.** (Move hands, like a flowing river.)
- **The river began at God's temple,** (Point to heaven.)
- **So it came from God, we know.** (Point to head and nod yes.)
  
- **It came up to Ezekiel's ankles.** (Point to ankles.)
- **Then, it rose up to his knees.** (Point to knees.)
- **It grew so deep it filled with fish,** (Wiggle hands like a swimming fish.)
- **On each side, grew many trees.** (Raise arms, like tree branches.)
  
- **Everywhere the river flowed,** (Move hands, like a flowing river.)
- **Plants and fruit trees grew.** (Raise hands up from floor to show growth.)
- **The river stands for the life God gives** (Point to heaven.)
- **To the world, and me, and you.** (Point to one another.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6

### **GAME: PRAISE BALLOON**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Balloon

**Hold your hand in front of your mouth and blow on it. Do you feel your breath? (Yes!) We can use our breath to put air into balloons.** Inflate a balloon with your breath and knot it closed. The children can pretend to blow up imaginary balloons as they watch you. **We can also use our breath to praise the Lord. Lord is a special name we use for God. When I toss the balloon toward you, I want you to bop it (or catch it) and say, "I praise the Lord."**

**Directions:**

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. Choose a child. As you toss the balloon toward the child, say "**Let name of child praise the Lord.**"
3. When the child bops or catches the balloon, lead them in saying, "**I praise the Lord.**"
4. Play until every child has had a turn.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: INSTRUMENT PRAISE**

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

**Supplies:** Children's musical instruments, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"

**Teacher Tips:** Create your own instruments by using two metal pot lids for cymbals, a wooden spoon and metal pot for a drum, or fill a container with a lid with dried beans or rice for a shaker. Children can also keep the rhythm by tapping two sticks together. **No Instruments Option:** Instead of using instruments, assign each child a different animal. Lead children in praising the Lord with the sound of each animal: **Let every name of an animal that has breath praise the Lord.** Children respond by making the sound of that animal.

**The Lord wants everyone in the world to praise Him. Can you praise the Lord?** (Children respond.)  
**When you hear the name of your instrument, play it to praise the Lord.**

### **Directions:**

1. Children repeat the Bible Memory Verse after you, one word at a time.
2. Give an instrument to each child. Be sure children know the name of the instruments.
3. **All that have name of an instrument praise the Lord.** Children with that instrument play.
4. Repeat step 3 until each child has played an instrument to praise the Lord.
5. Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory verse Song. Have the children praise the Lord together by marching and playing their instruments while they sing along.



## **STORY TIME**

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about how God gives life to His creation.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 9, Lesson 44: Ezekiel and the River

**PONDER!** God gave Ezekiel a dream of a river flowing from the temple (Ezekiel 47:1-12). A temple is a church. The river brought life to everything it touched. Who helps us grow and love others? (God.)

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for giving me life and helping me grow. Thank You for loving me everywhere I go. Amen."

**PLAY!** Collect leaves and flowers. Draw or cut out pictures of river animals. Glue your collection onto pieces of blue paper. Gather the pages, punch holes along one side, and tie them together with yarn to create a picture album. Talk about how God gives life to everything and everyone.

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

**"Let everything** (everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.  
**that has breath** (breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.  
**praise** The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.  
**the Lord."** (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.  
**Psalm 150:6** Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.