

Kindergarten – 6th Grade Families

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)

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

1. **Watch Skit:** <https://vimeo.com/showcase/5325402/video/282572294>
2. **Read Bible Story and discuss:** Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6

Additional Supplies: None

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

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 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.

3. Game: RUNNING HERALDS 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.

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!

4. **Game:** FOUR PRAISE CORNERS

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse, 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.

5. **Sing:** <https://vimeo.com/135591555>

6. **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

7. **Weekly Devotional:**

Ages 6-9:

https://resourcewell.s3.amazonaws.com/children/prophetsandpromises/PP.U9.L43-Ages6-9_DailyWay.pdf

Ages 10-12:

https://resourcewell.s3.amazonaws.com/children/prophetsandpromises/PP.U9.L43-Ages10-12_W3Journal.pdf