

Lesson C2.5 - God Can Do Anything!



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Ezekiel 37:1-14

► Bible Characters: Ezekiel, God, dry bones

The prophet Ezekiel had a vision where he saw a valley of dry bones. God told him to prophesy to the bones. When he did, they returned to life! Ezekiel realized God was going to give the Israelites new life in a similar way, breathing his Spirit into them. By so doing, God would restore his relationship with his people and lead them back home to Israel.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

► Scripture Section: Return

The Israelites had been exiled from their home and living in Babylon for many years. Ezekiel prophesied that God would restore them and they would return to Israel. This is just what happened, although it was after Ezekiel's lifetime.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of the **Alphabet Song**.

Welcome everyone today!

Now let's settle down and pray.

Thank you, Lord, that we are here.

Keep us healthy through the year.

Help us listen, learn and grow.

Teach us all that we should know. Amen!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Have you ever felt like things were bad and might stay that way forever? Well, if so, you're not alone. Lots of us go through times like that, even people in the Bible. But guess what? **God can do anything!** Say that with me. **God can do anything!** God is in charge of the future, and that's great news! He always has a plan for good.

Do you know what the word homesick means? (*To be sad from missing your home*)

In today's story, God's people were homesick. They were far from home, sad, and felt far away from God too. But then a man named Ezekiel told them an amazing story. He reminded them that **God can do anything!** What was his message? Let's hear our Bible story and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

**Picture 1**

Tell the children: Many years ago, the people of Israel were taken from their homes and forced to live in another country, far away, called Babylon.

Read the caption: Ezekiel was God's servant. He lived in a time when God's people were far from home and sad. But God had not forgotten them.

- *What do you think Ezekiel is doing in this picture? [It looks like he is praying to God.]*
- *How would you feel if you were taken from your home and country and had to live far away? [Sad, upset, worried, discouraged, etc.]*

**Picture 2**

Tell the children: The reason the Israelite people were living in Babylon was that they had not listened to God or obeyed him. Their bad choices had led to bad things happening. Was it too late for them now? Would things ever get better?

Read the caption: One day, Ezekiel had a dream. In it, he saw a valley filled with dry bones. Then he heard God ask, "Can these bones live?"

- *What is going on in this picture? [Not much--it's just a flat plain with a lot of bones scattered on the ground.]*
- *Why are the bones white? [They have been laying in the sun for a very long time.]*

**Picture 3**

Tell the children: This valley of dry bones was a picture of a hopeless situation. But soon, Ezekiel would see what God could do, even when it seemed all hope was lost.

Read the caption: God told Ezekiel to speak to the bones in God's name. When he did this, God's Spirit breathed life into the dry bones!

- *What is happening while Ezekiel speaks? [God's spirit is entering the bones.]*
- *Can you think of another story in the Bible when God breathed life into someone? [At the very beginning of time, God created the world and breathed life into Adam. Then God created Eve from Adam's bone.]*

**Picture 4**

Tell the children: Ezekiel was amazed at this wonderful vision. He wanted to tell his people what God had shown him. God was in control, and he had not given up on them! They just needed to trust him.

Read the caption: Ezekiel saw that God could do anything! God had brought the bones to life. And God could give hope and life back to his people too.

- *What do you notice about this picture? [All the people are smiling as the sun comes up. It is a new day!]*
- *What can we learn from this story? [God never forgets his people, even if they forget about him. God is the one who gives life, and he can do anything!]*

Remember today's message: **God can do anything!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*There was a prophet, long ago,
who saw a vision full of woe:
A valley that was filled quite high
with lots of bones — all of them dry.*

*But then God spoke aloud and said,
“These bones are lifeless, dry and dead,
yet I will give them breath again.
Go prophesy and speak to them!”*

*So the Prophet Zeke obeyed.
He began to preach and then to pray.
Those bones stood up! They came alive!
And suddenly, hope was revived.*

g. Young Children’s Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the “craft” for the day.)

Activity: Skeleton Treats

Materials: White chocolate pretzels, large marshmallows, white frosting, chocolate icing, paper plates and plastic knives

Instructions:

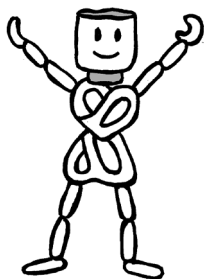
Give each person a paper plate, a tablespoon of vanilla frosting, a plastic knife, a marshmallow, and 5-10 white chocolate pretzels.

Invite children to arrange the marshmallow and white chocolate pretzels to look like a skeleton that is lying down on the plate. (They can break up the pretzels as needed for this.) Let them be as creative as they want!

Secure the pretzels with vanilla frosting so they stay in place on the plate.

Next, have kids use chocolate icing to draw a face on their large marshmallow. This will be the head of their skeleton.

Attach the head to the top with white frosting as well. Invite everyone to eat their handiwork or take it home to have as a treat later in the day!



h. Song (optional)

This traditional children’s song can be found on YouTube or other music sites.

Have kids stand and point to each body part as you sing it. After one round, sing it again, faster. Then a third time, faster yet!

OR, for the second round, stay silent on the word “head.” Then for the third round, stay silent on the words, “head” and “shoulders” etc.

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

**Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes.**

**Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes.**

**And eyes and ears and mouth and nose!
Head, shoulders, knees and toes!**



i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Ezekiel was one of God’s servants. One day, he had a dream about a valley of dried bones. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God, we thank you for this day,

And as we go along our way,

We ask your blessing, and your care,

On friends and family everywhere.

Please bless our church, and teachers too,

And help us always follow you. Amen.