

Risen – The Promise

SMALL GROUP NOTES

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Scriptures

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Questions for discussion

- a. Ezekiel's vision of a valley full of dry bones is not how God intended creation to be. Have a quick look over Genesis 1 and 2 to see all God made with creation, humanity and the Garden of Eden. What does this tell you about the character of God and his original plan for us?
- b. The valley of dry bones is a shocking and vast scene of death. Death is an intruder into God's creation when Adam and Eve sinned against God, and so death grieves both our hearts and the heart of God. Why is it important we understand that death grieves God?
- c. The vision is a picture of how Israel is in exile in Babylon, away from the land God had given to them. No wonder that, in this helpless situation, Ezekiel knows that only God knows how the bones/the whole of Israel can live again! How do you respond in what seems like a helpless situation?
- d. The bones do not come truly alive until the breath of God enters them. 'Breath' here in Hebrew can also be translated as 'spirit' – the bones only live when they become *spiritually* alive. How are you spiritually alive with God? Why is this so key to understand and practice when faced with the prospect and reality of earthly death?