







# LIFE N MISSION

THE  
ULTIMATE  
WALK  
WITH  
CHRIST

## SESSION 3

### READ

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Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### WATCH

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Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### DISCUSS

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We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# LIFE MISSION

THE ULTIMATE WALK WITH CHRIST

## SESSION 1

## CAN THESE BONES LIVE?

### OPEN

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As you open up tonight, let's think about this past week. How often have you felt unworthy of or left out?

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What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

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As we ask the question 'can these dry bones live?' What do you hope to get from this session?

### WATCH SESSION 1

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### INTRODUCTION

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What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some ways that we might use this to live on mission with Christ?

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### READ

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#### READ EZEKIEL 37:1-3,10

Some important questions when we read this passage of scripture is 1. Who is speaking 2. What is the author speaking about? 3. Where is the author located? 4. When was this passage written placed in history?

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Although he was best known to us as a prophet, Ezekiel was a priest before he received his call to prophecy. At first, Ezekiel's ministry was similar to that of Jeremiah - Ezekiel wanted to prepare the people for the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon. The prophet Ezekiel, who was probably one of the ten thousand captives taken to Babylon. However, once the city fell, Ezekiel became a prophet of hope.

#### HOW TO SAY IT

Assyrians: Uh-sear-e-unz

Babylon: Bab-uh-lun

Babylonians: Bab-ih-low-nee-unz

Chaldeans: Kal-dee-unz

Chebar: Kee-bar

Ezekiel: Ee-zeek-ee-ul or Ee-zeek-yul Ezra:

Ez-ruh

Isaiah: Eye-zay-uh

Ruah (Hebrew): rue-ah



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## SESSION 1

## CAN THESE BONES LIVE?

### DIVE IN

#### How was Ezekiel carried to the valley? V1

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"The hand of the Lord,"-God's own power-takes control of Ezekiel and transports him to another place. The phrase "in the Spirit of the Lord" suggests that the Holy Spirit takes charge of Ezekiel's mind for the purpose of imparting some revelation to that prophet. Ezekiel seems to be saying that the Lord's hand carries him through the air and sets him down at his destination. Does Ezekiel's body go along on that trip, or only his mind and spirit?

#### What did Ezekiel find in the valley? V2

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The destination-a certain "valley which was full of bones"-is where Ezekiel found himself. The importance of the discovery of the dried bones is its analogy to the exiled Israelites-who were akin at this point to being spiritually dead to God. Not only do the bones speak of death, of many deaths, but for bones to be left in the open was an indignity and indecency according to Jewish custom. To leave bodies unburied until the bones were exposed was unthinkable!

#### Once in the valley, what was the prophet told to do? V4

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God instructed Ezekiel to "prophesy to these bones." The prophet was now called upon to speak to the bones that lay before him in the valley. As he had proclaimed God's message to the captive Jews, now he was to call out, "O you dry bones, hear the word of the Lord."

#### Why would God instruct Ezekiel to preach to dry bones? Why might He instruct us to do the same thing?

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While preaching to the dead might seem an exercise in futility, God's word has the power to create and to raise the dead!

#### What happened once Ezekiel began to preach? V7

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It is hard for us to know exactly what the prophet hears and sees. The "noise" mentioned in verse 7 may very well be a rattling sound as countless disconnected bones join themselves together to form thousands of complete human skeletons.



**LIFE** **N** **MISSION**  
 THE ULTIMATE WALK WITH CHRIST

**SESSION 1**

**CAN THESE BONES LIVE?**

**What was the significance of these dry bones coming together again? For them and for us?**

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This rattling of bones was a prophetic portrayal of the rebirth of Israel; of their coming together again.

**The dry bones had come together but what had to happen before they could fully return to life?**

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Ezekiel watched as ligaments tie the bones together at every joint, as muscles appear and are joined by tendons to the proper bones. He watched as thousands of human skeletons become complete human bodies. But they are bodies with "no breath in them." God had to breathe the breath of life into them. God alone has power to bring that which was dead to life, this vision would testify to the fact that the Lord was the source of Israel's new life or rebirth.

**So the biggest question is WHY? Why would God bring Ezekiel out into the wilderness to see this vision?**

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God wanted Ezekiel to see these bones as "the whole house of Israel." Dry or spiritually dead, despondent and dejected, with no apparent hope of being resurrected as the people of the living God, disassembled and dispersed BUT GOD would rejoin and rebuild them.

**How does this lesson give us hope in Christ?**

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We know, though, that there is hope in Christ! We may sometimes feel "cut off," or "lost," or spiritually "dry," but we can rest in the blessed assurance that God is able to breathe life back into our dried bones just as He did to those bones found in the valley, and as He did for the exiled Children of Israel. We should never ever give up on our hope in God!



