

Dry Bones [God's Word] Discussion Guide

Summary

In this opening message of a new series on Ezekiel's Valley of Dry Bones, Jonathan explores what real, life-changing revival looks like and where it truly comes from. Using Ezekiel 37:1-10 as the foundation, he paints a vivid picture of a valley filled with completely dried-out bones representing spiritual death, hopelessness, and exile. Just as God commanded Ezekiel to speak His Word over those bones and they came to life, Jonathan makes clear that genuine revival is not rooted in emotion or human effort. It begins when we encounter the living God through His living Word.

The sermon draws on James 1:19-25 to give practical guidance on how to position ourselves to receive what God wants to do in us. We are called to be quick to listen, to humbly accept God's Word, and most importantly, to actually do what it says. Jonathan emphasizes that revival is not a scheduled event or a fleeting emotional experience. It is the daily, personal choice to let Scripture shape how we think, speak, and live. When individuals allow God's Word to bring real change from the inside out, that is when true revival spreads beyond one person and begins to move through a community.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. Thank You for bringing each person together for this time. Lord, just as You spoke life

into dry bones in Ezekiel's vision, we ask that You speak life into this conversation today. Help us to set aside our assumptions and our agendas, and give us ears that are truly ready to hear what You want to say to us specifically in this moment. We do not want to simply discuss ideas. We want to encounter You. So Holy Spirit, lead this discussion, soften any hardened places in our hearts, and show each of us what You personally want us to take away today. We trust that Your Word is alive and powerful, and we invite it to do its work in us right now. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one word you would use to describe your spiritual life right now, and why did that word come to mind?

Key Verses

- Hebrews 4:12
- Ezekiel 37:1-10
- James 1:19-25
- Psalms 107:20
- Isaiah 55:10-11

Questions

- When you hear the word 'revival,' what image or experience first comes to mind? How does Jonathan's definition of revival compare to what you previously thought it meant?
- In Ezekiel's vision, the bones were described as completely dried out and scattered. Have you ever

experienced a season of spiritual life that felt like that? What did it feel like, and what contributed to it?

- When God asked Ezekiel, 'Can these bones become living people again?' Ezekiel responded by saying, 'You alone know the answer.' What does that kind of response reveal about Ezekiel's faith, and what can we learn from it when we face situations that feel impossible?

- Jonathan said that revival comes from God's Word, not from our emotions or willpower. Why do you think we so often look to emotional experiences or personal effort as the source of spiritual renewal instead of Scripture?

- James 1:22 warns us not to just listen to God's Word but to actually do what it says. Can you think of a time when you heard something from Scripture but did not act on it? What held you back, and what was the result?

- Jonathan described humility as the 'soil' that allows God's Word to take root in our hearts. What does it practically look like to approach Scripture with humility rather than with pride or defensiveness?

- The sermon mentioned that revival is a daily choice to let God's Word shape how we think, speak, treat people, and use our time and resources. Which of those areas feels most challenging for you personally right now, and why?

- Jonathan closed by saying that when individuals allow real change to happen inside them, that is when revival spreads to a community. How do you think your personal pursuit of God's Word could have an impact on the people around you?

Life Application

This week, choose one specific time each day to open God's Word with intentionality. Before you begin reading,

pause and pray a simple prayer asking God to speak to you and choose to be willing to obey what you hear. As you read, write down one thing God seems to be saying to you personally. Then identify one concrete action you can take that day to respond in obedience to what you received. At the end of the week, reflect on whether anything shifted in your heart, your perspective, or your relationships as a result.

Key Takeaways

- Real revival is not an emotional event or a scheduled church service. It is a genuine, life-changing encounter with God that begins when we engage with His living and powerful Word.
- Just as God spoke through Ezekiel to bring dry bones back to life, He still speaks today through Scripture. Spiritual deadness is not permanent when we position ourselves to hear from Him.
- God's Word does not return to Him empty. It always accomplishes what He intends, which means when we engage with Scripture faithfully, transformation is not just possible but promised.
- Positioning ourselves for revival requires three things: being quick to listen to God's Word with openness, humbly accepting what it says even when it challenges us, and actually obeying it rather than just hearing it.
- Personal revival is the starting point for community revival. When more and more individuals allow God's Word to bring real change from the inside out, that is when revival begins to spread and impact the world around them.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we are grateful for the time we have shared together today and for the truth of Your Word that has been at the center of it. Like those dry bones in Ezekiel's valley, we acknowledge that there are places in each of us that need Your breath, Your life, and Your renewal. We do not want to walk out of this conversation unchanged. So we ask that You take everything we have discussed and let it take root deeply in our hearts. Give us the courage to be quick to listen, the humility to accept what You say even when it is hard, and the faith to obey even when it costs us something. Remind us this week that Your Word is alive, that it is powerful, and that it has the ability to make dead things live again. Revive us, Lord, starting right here and right now. Let the change You begin in each of us ripple outward to our families, our friendships, and our community. We give You all the glory for what You are doing and what You will continue to do. In the precious and holy name of Jesus, amen.