

Dry Bones [God's Spirit] Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon continues a series on Ezekiel's vision of the Valley of Dry Bones, focusing on the role of the Holy Spirit in bringing true revival. Jonathan draws from Ezekiel 37:1-10 to show that while God's Word brings structure and direction, it is the breath of God (the Holy Spirit) that brings genuine life. Just as the bones in the valley came together through the spoken Word but only came alive when the Spirit breathed into them, we too need both the Word and the Spirit working together for real transformation to take place in our lives.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and open hands. We acknowledge that we cannot manufacture what only Your Spirit can do. We ask that You quiet our minds, soften our hearts, and make us truly receptive to what You want to speak into our lives today. Holy Spirit, move freely in us. Reveal truth, stir faith, and breathe life into any dry or dormant places we may be carrying. Help us not just to hear a message, but to encounter You. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you are genuinely looking forward to this week, no matter how big or small?

Key Verses

- John 6:63
- Ezekiel 37:1-10
- Romans 8:11-13, 16
- Galatians 5:16-17
- Galatians 5:22-23

Questions

- Jonathan described the Valley of Dry Bones as a place of ancient, scattered lifelessness. Is there an area of your life, whether a relationship, a dream, or your faith, that feels like a dry valley right now? How does it feel to bring that honestly before God?
- God asked Ezekiel, 'Can these bones become living people again?' If God asked you that same question about a specific area of your life today, what would your honest answer be and why?
- The sermon emphasized that the bones came together through God's Word but only came to life when the Spirit breathed into them. What does this tell us about the relationship between reading Scripture and being filled with the Holy Spirit? How have you experienced both working together in your own life?
- Jonathan said that the normal Christian experience includes a real battle between our sinful nature and the Holy Spirit. Have you ever felt that tension? How does knowing this is normal and not a sign of failure change the way you view your own spiritual struggles?
- The sermon used the illustration of focusing on elephants to make the point that we are always drawn to what we focus on. How does this apply to the way you

approach your relationship with God? Are you more focused on avoiding sin or on growing closer to Him?

- Jonathan listed four specific works of the Holy Spirit: convicting us of truth, giving us power to change, producing fruit in us, and testifying to our adoption as God's children. Which of these four do you feel you need most in your life right now, and why?

- Galatians 5:16-17 says to let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Jonathan described this as an active daily decision, not a passive one. What are some practical ways you can choose to follow the Spirit's leading this week in a specific situation you are facing?

- The sermon closed with the reminder that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in those who are in relationship with God. How does that truth change the way you approach areas of your life that feel hopeless or beyond repair?

Life Application

This week, choose one area of your life where you have been focused on fighting a sin or a struggle on your own strength. Instead of making that struggle the center of your prayers and Bible reading, intentionally shift your focus toward drawing closer to God. Spend time each day asking the Holy Spirit to guide you, reading Scripture with the purpose of knowing Him better, and praying with honesty about where you need His breath to bring life. At the end of the week, reflect on whether shifting your focus changed anything about how you experienced that area of your life.

Key Takeaways

- God's Word and God's Spirit work together. The Word brings structure and direction, but it is the Holy Spirit who brings genuine life and transformation. We need both, not one or the other.
- Real revival is not an emotional event or a church program. It is the Holy Spirit moving through a person and waking them up to God's presence, power, and love in a way that cannot be manufactured.
- The tension between our sinful nature and the Holy Spirit is the normal Christian experience. Feeling that pull does not mean you are failing. It means you are awake to what the Spirit is doing in your life.
- You will always be drawn to what you focus on. Shifting your focus from avoiding sin to pursuing Christ and being led by the Spirit is how genuine, lasting transformation happens.
- The same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in every believer through the Holy Spirit. No situation, relationship, or area of faith is too dry or too far gone for God to breathe life into it again.

Ending Prayer

Father, we are so grateful that You are a God who breathes life into dead places. Thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, who lives in us and empowers us to become more like Christ. As we leave this time together, we ask that You keep the truths we discussed alive in our hearts throughout the week. Where we have been striving in our own strength, teach us to surrender. Where we have been focused on our failures, help us to fix our eyes on You. Holy Spirit, guide us, convict us gently, produce Your fruit in us, and remind us daily that we are Your children. May the dry bones in each of our

lives come to life by the power of Your breath. We trust You with every area we brought before You today. In the precious name of Jesus, Amen.