The Story 17: Graves into Gardens **November 15, 2026**
Ezekiel 37

Big Idea: When humanity is broken beyond hope, God's story is far from over!

The Story

Judah had experienced generations of leaders who repeatedly did evil in God's eyes. Despite God's patience and the warnings of His prophets, the people continued in disobedience. Eventually, Jerusalem fell, the temple was destroyed, and the people were carried into Babylonian exile.

Faithfulness and Consequences

Jeremiah and Ezekiel remained faithful to God's calling, even when people rejected their messages. Their responsibility was to obey God, not control the response of others. Judah's downfall reminds us that disobedience has consequences. Yet even faithful people sometimes suffer because of the choices of others.

Graves into Gardens

In Ezekiel 37, God showed Ezekiel a valley filled with dry bones, representing a nation that had lost hope. Through God's Word and Spirit, those bones came to life! God promised restoration, not because His people deserved it, but for the glory of His name. Their return from exile demonstrated His faithfulness, but an even greater King was still coming – Jesus Christ.

Things to Remember: Don't mistake God's patience for permission. Remain obedient even when life is difficult. And when everything seems hopeless, remember that God can bring life where there was none.

Family Night — Read Ezekiel 37:1–14

Elementary School: What did Ezekiel see in the valley? Who made the bones come alive? Why should we obey God even when something seems impossible?

Middle/High School: Why is it sometimes difficult to obey God when others refuse to listen? How can someone else's poor decisions affect us? What does the valley of dry bones teach us about God's power and our hope in Him?

Prayer: "Father, help us obey You even when it is difficult. Thank You for Your mercy, Your faithfulness, and the new life we have through Jesus.

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)
Velocity: This Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30.
Gravity: Gravity today in both services.

Today's Songs
Graves Into Gardens ……..Branden Lake
Worthy……...Elevation Worship
God of Wonders……...Third Day

KidsJAM Pie Palooza
KidsJAM kids join us this Wednesday, Nov. 18th for games and crafts from 6-7pm. Sign up in KidsJAM.

Pie Drive for the Homeless
Homemade or Store-Bought Pies due November 22.

Impact Prayer Cards
Choose one person or organization, write their name on a prayer card, and commit to praying for them intentionally, trusting God to make an impact through your prayers.

Poinsettia Sale
You can purchase a poinsettia for $20 in memory or honor of a loved one. We will display them on stage during the holidays and you can take yours home on Christmas Eve. Please pay when you order.

Family Gift Giving
If you know of a family that needs help this Christmas, let a staff member know and we will give the church an opportunity to fulfill their wish list. **Wish Lists are Due next Sunday, Nov. 22nd.**

Deck the Halls
Mark your calendars for Dec. 6th at 4:30 for our annual Christmas Party. Everyone wears their pajamas and brings a blanket to the auditorium for watching *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.* But first, kids make a gingerbread house, and families take their photo for the Christmas Tree. Concession stand opens at 5:00 so bring some cash. See you there!