

Life Group Discussion Guide

From Dry Bones to Living People

Text: Ezekiel 37:1–10 (with vv. 11–14)

Purpose of the Discussion

This passage is not primarily about personal motivation or “speaking positivity,” but about **God restoring a covenant people who believed their story was over.**

Tonight, we reflect on:

- What God was doing then
- What this reveals about who God is
- How this shapes who we are today as His people

1. Opening Question

Start with something relational and non-threatening.

- When you hear the phrase “*dry bones*,” what usually comes to mind?
- Why do you think this passage is so often misunderstood or misapplied?

(Leader note: Don’t correct yet — just listen.)

2. Read the Text Together

Have someone read **Ezekiel 37:1–10** aloud slowly.

Then read **verse 11**:

“These bones are the whole house of Israel... Our hope is gone; we are cut off.”

Observation Question

- What words or images stand out to you as you hear this passage read?

3. God Meets His People in the Reality of Their Death

“The valley was full of bones... and they were very dry.” (vv. 1–2)

Discussion

- According to verse 11, what do the bones represent?
- Why is it important that the bones are described as *very dry*?
- Why do you think God places Ezekiel **in the valley**, instead of lifting him above it?

Reflection

- Where are we tempted to avoid naming what is actually dead or broken?
- Where have we confused **faith with avoidance** or denial?

Key truth: God does not begin restoration with denial — He begins with truth.

4. God Asks a Question That Redefines Hope

“Son of man, can these bones live?” (v. 3)

Discussion

- What kind of question is God really asking Ezekiel?
- Why do you think Ezekiel answers, “*O Sovereign LORD, You alone know*”?

Application

- Where are you tempted to say, “*This is impossible*”?
- Where are you tempted to say, “*I’ve got this*”?
- What would it look like to honestly say, “*Lord, only You know — and I trust You*”?

Key truth: Biblical hope is not confidence in outcomes — it is confidence in God.

5. God's Word — Not Human Opinion — Creates Life

“Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Hear the word of the LORD.’” (v. 4)

Discussion

- What does Ezekiel **not** do when he speaks to the bones?
- Why is it significant that life begins with God's Word, not encouragement or advice?

Reflection

- Are we more shaped by Scripture or by culture?
- Do we trust God's Word to do what only God can do?

Key truth: Life flows from God's Word, not human insight.

6. God Restores in Order, Not Instantly

Bones → sinews → flesh → skin → breath (vv. 7–10)

Discussion

- Why do you think God restores in stages instead of all at once?
- What might God be teaching Israel — and us — through this process?

Application

- Where are you frustrated with God's timing?
- Where might God be building **structure before breath** in your life?

Key truth: God restores whole people, not quick fixes.

7. God's Spirit Completes What Human Obedience Begins

"There was no breath in them..." (v. 8)

Discussion

- What part does Ezekiel play in the vision?
- What part belongs only to God?

Reflection

- Where are you trying to do God's work without God's Spirit?
- Where do you need to pray for **breath**, not more effort?

Key truth: We participate — God empowers.

8. God Restores for Purpose, Not Just Survival

"They stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army." (v. 10)

Discussion

- Why does God restore Israel into an *army* and not just a healed people?
- What does this say about God's intention for restored people?

Application

- Where has God brought restoration in your life?
- Are you content to survive — or willing to be sent?

Key truth: Restoration always leads to mission.