



FEEDING 5,000

**DRAMA
WORKSHOP**



OVERVIEW



SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14



CONNECTION

The Lord used Ezekiel to proclaim a new life for the people of Israel who were in exile from their homeland. The imagery is of new life being breathed into a valley of dry bones. Heifer International breathes new life into the poor people of the world who don't have the means to support themselves. Once given the gift of animals and training, they have the chance to feed themselves, acquire income and then Pass on the Gift to others, thus breathing new life and hope into a whole community.



MAIN IDEAS

- Ezekiel, an Old Testament prophet proclaimed the word of the Lord
- He spoke to the people of Israel who were in exile in Assyria and Babylon
- Ezekiel used the imagery of breathing life into a valley of dry bones to forecast the renewal of the Holy Spirit in the people of Israel



HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn the story of Ezekiel and his vision of the valley of dry bones
- Enact a drama using the African-American spiritual "Dry Bones," linking the Ezekiel story to Heifer



SUPPLIES AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Bibles
- Print out of a skeleton (to assemble) or plastic skeleton bones if available
- Put numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 on four 8.5 x 11 pieces of paper and tape to the wall in each corner of the room
- Print copies of the Valley of Dry Bones script for students
- Print signs with the following words:
 - » Assyrians
 - » Babylonians
 - » Israelites
 - » Judahites

LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Arrange the bones of one skeleton on the floor before the class comes in.

- Could these bones come to life? Why not?
- What if they were real bones? Could they come to life? Why not?

Imagine a time when life is difficult. People often lose hope. It's like there is no life in the very bones of the people. They were like dry bones.

EZEKIEL AND THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

There were many times in the history of Israel when the Israelites felt like they were a shattered and scattered people. One of the times was about 500 years before Jesus came to Earth. They were attacked by Babylon and sent away from their homeland into exile.

We are going to experience what happened to the people of Israel that made them feel like dry bones by acting out the Valley of Dry Bones script on Pages 4-5.

That is the story of Ezekiel. Slaves understood what it was like to live without hope. A person was able to remember that God always breathes new life into a yearning spirit.

After receiving the gifts of animals and training, families often experience a renewed sense of hope for their lives and futures. Then, those recipients share their knowledge—along with their animals' offspring—with other families in their community.

Play the song, "Dry Bones" by clicking [here](#).

Ezekiel cried, "Dem dry bones!"
Ezekiel cried, "Dem dry bones!"
Ezekiel cried, "Dem dry bones!"
"Oh, hear the word of the Lord."

The toe bone connected to the heel bone,
The heel bone connected to the foot bone,
The foot bone connected to the leg bone,
The leg bone connected to the knee bone,
The knee bone connected to the thigh bone,
The thigh bone connected to the back bone,
The back bone connected to the neck bone,
The neck bone connected to the head bone,
Oh, hear the word of the Lord!

Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk aroun'
Dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk aroun'
Dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk aroun'
Oh, hear the word of the Lord.

The head bone connected to the neck bone,
The neck bone connected to the back bone,
The back bone connected to the thigh bone,
The thigh bone connected to the knee bone,
The knee bone connected to the leg bone,
The leg bone connected to the foot bone,
The foot bone connected to the heel bone,
The heel bone connected to the toe bone,
Oh, hear the word of the Lord!

Older students may enjoy Lauren Daigle's version of "Dry Bones (Come Alive)" [here](#).

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Do the bunny hop and ask each participant in line to donate 50 cents.
2. Create your own one-day farmers market. At the height of growing season, encourage parishioners to bring in their excess fresh produce. The proceeds from the sale go to Heifer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, we all experience valleys of dry bones in our lives. Please open our awareness to your presence so we can spread the hope of your kingdom to others. We ask to be an instrument of your peace. Amen.

VALLEY OF DRY BONES SCRIPT

Narrator:	The Israelites were a scattered people. After being forced to leave their homes, they felt spiritually dry.
Assyrians:	[Go to corner #1 and remain quiet.]
Babylonians:	[Go to corner #2 and remain quiet.]
Israelites:	[Gather in the middle of the room and pose like you are strong.]
Narrator:	This group of Israelites represent Israel under King David. They were a strong group of people. Over time, the Israelites became bitter toward one another.
Israelites:	[Start bickering. Half of the group move to corner #3 and the other half move to corner #4. The new group in corner #4 now represent Judah.]
Narrator:	The Israelites split into two groups, with the new group representing Judah, which is the home of Jerusalem.
Israelites:	[Start bowing to various objects from your area of the room, such as the clock, television, etc.]
Ezekiel:	You are worshiping idols! You are forgetting to care for the poor and the widows and the orphans.
Israelites:	[Walk around with your noses in the air as if you don't notice anyone else.]
Narrator:	While the Israelites divided, the Assyrians grew in power and attacked Israel.

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- Assyrians:** [Walk to corner #3 and pretend like you are drawing a sword. Then, take the Israelites by the hand and lead them back to corner #1.]
- Narrator:** The Babylonians became stronger as well and attacked Judah and Jerusalem. The Judeans immediately surrendered and the Babylonians destroyed the temple.
- Babylonians:** [Walk to corner #4 and pretend like you are drawing a sword. Then, take the Israelites by the hand and lead them back to corner #2.]
- Narrator:** This is known as the exile. The people of Israel and Judah were no longer in their Promised Land.
- Israelites, Judahites:** [Look sad and deflated as if your muscles cannot hold up your bones.]
- Narrator:** The Israelites and Judahites felt like dry bones, as if their lives had no purpose. They wanted to return to their beloved Jerusalem and remembered their stories of faith when God created their miraculous escape from Egypt. While they felt hopeless, God was still with them.
- The Lord was also with Ezekiel as he had a vision where he saw the Lord breathing on dry bones in the valley of dry bones. The Lord gave the Israelites and Judahites new life and promised them land on which to settle.
- Ezekiel:** Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!
- Israelites, Judahites:** [Dance like you have been given new life!]
- Narrator:** In 571 B.C., the Jews returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the Temple.
- Assyrians, Babylonians:** [Return to corner #4 and dance like you are shining in the glory of God.]
- Narrator:** This is the story of Ezekiel. Slaves understood what it was like to live without hope. A person could remember that God always breathes new life into a spirit that yearns for Him.