

### Sermon Statement:

This narrative is sharing a vision God gave Ezekiel of a valley filled with dry bones. It paints a picture of the hopeless state, which Israel found itself in being cut off from their land, their temple, and from their perspective from their God. Their situation caused them to lose hope, and they felt as though their fate was sealed because of their circumstance, with no opportunity for restoration. Thus their statement in vs. **11** (Ezekiel 37) "Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, there's nothing left of us."

### Leading Question(s):

What are some steps we can take to effectively feed our faith?

#### Key Scripture (s): Ezekiel 37:1-14 Ezekiel 37:1-9 (NLT)

37 The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones. 2 He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. 3 Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?" "O Sovereign Lord," I replied, "vou alone know the answer to that." **4** Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! 6 I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord." 7 So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. 8 Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed

to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.

**9** Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again."

### Ezekiel 37:10 -14 (MSG)

**10** So I prophesied, just as he commanded me. The breath entered them and they came alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge army. **11** Then God said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Listen to what they're saying: 'Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, there's nothing left of us.' 12-14 "Therefore, prophesy. Tell them, 'God, the Master, says: I'll dig up your graves and bring you out alive -O my people! Then I'll take you straight to the land of Israel. When I dig up graves and bring you out as my people, you'll realize that I am God. I'll breathe my life into you and you'll live. Then I'll lead you straight back to your land and you'll realize that I am God. I've said it and I'll do it. God's Decree."

## 2 Corinthians 1:20

**20** For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

### Hebrews 10:35-36

**35** So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! **36** Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

## Key Points:

1. THE VALLEY

Often in the middle of a yes, the valley is a starting point.

#### 2 Corinthians 1:20

**20** For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

# 2. CAN THESE BONES LIVE?

God is basically asking Ezekiel, do you have enough faith in me that I will restore (the bones) The reference to "bones" here is a way of referring to one's deepest self.

## **3.** SPEAK TO THE BONES

You must grab a hold of your faith and align with God, to obtain authority to speak to the bones. **Ezekiel 37:4-6** (NLT)

4 Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! 6 I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord." Hebrews 10:35-36 (NLT)

**35** So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! **36** Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

## 4. GARDENS vs. GRAVES

Do not allow the enemy to confuse you, because Graves are not Gardens.

They both have flowers, but only one births new life.

## Ezekiel 37:12-14 (NLT)

"Therefore, prophesy. Tell them, 'God, the Master, says: I'll dig up your graves and bring you out alive–O my people! Then I'll take you straight to the land of Israel. When I dig up graves and bring you out as my people, you'll realize that I am God. I'll breathe my life into you and you'll live. Then I'll lead you straight back to your land and you'll realize that I am God. I've said it and I'll do it. God's Decree."



#### Notes: