

ONE

STORY

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 35
Ezekiel

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Pray for each of your group members by name
- Look over the questions on the right and choose the ones that are most appropriate for your small group. If you're really feeling motivated, you might even think of a few on your own.
- Think through how you might prompt your group a little if they have difficulty getting started in discussion.
- Take a look at the accountability question below. Lead members to gather one on one or in same sex clusters to discuss it over coffee this week.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

God's desire is to restore His people.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION

What things is God doing in your life today that we should take as a "sign" of Him working in a certain situation?

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read Ezekiel 21-39

AS YOU READ...

...Think about what God's plan is for your life.

CONNECT

(10 min.)

Choose one or both of the following questions to begin your time together as a group.

1. What is the most impressive slight-of-hand ("magic") trick you have ever seen?
2. Has God ever spoken to you in a surprising or unexpected way? If so, describe it.

EXPLORE

(40 min.)

Say something like, "Today we are going to look at God's ability to redeem us from death into life".

3. If you were in worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?

(Leader: Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. Read Ezekiel 37:1-3. What do you think the bones represent? Why do you think God asked Ezekiel "can these bones live?"
5. Read Ezekiel 37:4-10. What was the purpose of giving life to the bones (verse 6)? What are the 2 steps Ezekiel used to raise the bones from the dead? What would be a possible reason why God would not do this all at once?
6. Read Ezekiel 37:11. God describes the bones as "dried up", their "hope is lost" and they are "cut off". Has there been a time in your life when you would have used these descriptions for yourself? Has that changed? What caused the change?
7. Read Ezekiel 37:12-14. What is God revealing to Ezekiel through these instructions about the house of Israel's future? What do you think this teaches us about what God can do for us?
8. What does this story teach us about the character of God? Are there any new qualities that you discovered about Him from this story?

TRANSFORM

(10 min.)

Wrap up your time by recalling a few things from your meeting that stood out to you. Then, ask the following question and pray together.

9. The Lord showed Ezekiel His plan in the Valley of the Dry Bones. How can we show others the signs of God's work in our tough times? What does this say to those around us about who God is?

This Week's Study Notes:

Scripture Notes

Ezekiel 37:2

The exposed bones were denied the dignity of a customary burial. In addition, the bones symbolized an extended time of neglect.

Ezekiel 37:6

The vision of the dry bones is about Israel being restored in the last days. It will happen in stages, ending with spiritual restoration.

Ezekiel 37:8

Similar to a balloon with no air, the lifeless shape lacked the mysterious and divine quality needed to bring it to life. Ezekiel saw Israel's restoration in stages. Israel will be restored first in belief and later when God's Spirit is poured into them.

Ezekiel 37:11

God wanted Israel to envision the possibilities. Yes, they could indeed be restored despite the disparity around them.

Ezekiel 37:14

God's promise was what His displaced people longed to hear. It gave them tremendous hope for returning home.

Leader Tips

AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
 1. Whom does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
 2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
 3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: Bible.org
- Bible Commentary: DesiringGod.org
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm

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