

PROPHETS

Community Group Discussion Guide

June 19, 2016

Dry Bones | Ezekiel 37

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

1. One dictionary defines hopelessness as "beyond optimism," "desperate," and "impossible to resolve." As a group, quickly review where the nations of Israel and Judah are, as we read the book of Ezekiel and other Old Testament prophets. What about their situation would have seemed hopeless or desperate?
2. Read Ezekiel 36:16-21. Why are God's people in this desperate situation? How does this passage help us take sin seriously?
3. Now read Ezekiel 37:1-14.
 - What about this passage reinforces the hopelessness of God's people? (Hint: Who are they identified with in this passage?)
 - How does this passage offer hope in a hopeless situation? What does this passage teach us about the hope God is offering His people?
4. Now read Ezekiel 36:24-28. What additional explanation do these verses give, helping us understand the hope God is offering His people?
5. These promises of restoration God is making to His people aren't just about end-time issues. In Jesus' death and resurrection, we discover that these promises find an initial fulfillment there. How does Jesus' death and resurrection "activate" an initial fulfillment of these promises? (Brainstorm some ideas here - we'll get into this a bit more in the next few questions as well.)
6. Agree or disagree with this statement: Without Jesus Christ, our spiritual condition is hopeless. Explain your statement. After some initial discussion, consider how Ephesians 2:1-3 and Romans 3:9-18 impact your response.
7. Can you relate to this idea of "spiritual hopelessness"? How so?
8. Now read Ephesians 2:4-10 and Romans 6:3-4. What hope does Jesus Christ offer? (Be sure not to miss the "dead/alive" language in each of these passages, and consider how they overlap with what we read about in Ezekiel 37!)
9. What does all this mean for your life?
 - If you've never considered the hope Jesus offers, what is going through your mind right now? What next steps do you need to take, or what questions do you have?
 - If you've already discovered the new life Jesus offers and have placed your faith in Jesus, how do you allow these truths to remain magnificent in your mind and life?



This week's readings
(June 20-26)

Mon - Ezekiel 34-36

Tues - Ezekiel 37-39

Wed - Ezekiel 40-44

Sun - Daniel 1-3

Thurs - Ezekiel 45-48

Fri - Esther 1-5

Sat - Esther 6-10