

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

God, thank You for Your Word, which brings order into the chaos of our lives, and for Your Spirit, who breathes life where we feel dry, weary, or stuck. Help us listen with humility, honesty, and openness to what You want to show us. Convict us where we need to submit to Your Word, stand on Your promises, and respond in obedience. Holy Spirit, empower us not just to be comforted, but to be commissioned to take the next step You are calling us to take. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

What's something you once said you'd "never" do, but now you actually do and maybe even enjoy (drive a minivan, early bedtime, move to a new state)?

SERMON OVERVIEW



SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP



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This week, Pastor Joseph Antley focuses on the prophet Ezekiel and asks us: What do you do when life knocks you down in ways you never saw coming? We all carry valleys of dry bones somewhere in our lives: broken relationships, financial ruin, prodigal children, grief that silenced us when we needed words most. The vision God gave Ezekiel speaks directly into those moments. A valley scattered with dry, lifeless bones becomes the setting for one of Scripture's most powerful demonstrations of divine restoration. When Ezekiel simply spoke what God told him to speak, not his own opinions, not his feelings, not the advice of those who agreed with him, chaos began to move toward order. Bones rattled and reconnected. Flesh and skin appeared. Through Ezekiel's obedience in prophesying to the bones, the sermon establishes two foundational truths: the Word of God brings order to chaos, and the Spirit of God brings life to what is merely ordered. Neither element alone is sufficient. Submitting to the authority of God's Word realigns life's disorder, but only the breath of the Holy Spirit produces genuine, lasting vitality. The sermon culminates in the image of a vast army rising to its feet, commissioned people called to stand firm on God's promises and advance His purposes.

READ SCRIPTURE

EZEKIEL 37:1-14, ISAIAH 40:8, 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) Pastor Joseph describes areas of our lives that feel like a 'valley of dry bones.' What is one area of your life where you have struggled to believe God can bring restoration, and what has made it difficult to trust Him there?

2) God asks Ezekiel whether the bones can live, and Ezekiel responds, "I don't know, but You do." Share a time when you were invited to trust what God knows and can do rather than what you could see or understand?

3) Pastor Joseph drew a distinction between the Spirit comforting us and the Spirit commissioning us. In your own walk with God, do you tend to seek the Spirit more for comfort or for empowerment to serve others, and why?

GROW SPIRITUALLY

4) God asked Ezekiel, "Son of man, can these bones live?" He already knew the answer. Why do you think God asked the question anyway? What does that tell us about how God engages with us in our hardest moments?

5) Ezekiel's job wasn't to make the bones live; it was to faithfully speak what God commanded. What distinction does that draw between our responsibility and God's when it comes to spiritual transformation?

6) The bones come together and are covered with flesh, yet they still have no life until Ezekiel speaks to the breath/Spirit. What distinction does this picture draw between having "order" in our lives and having genuine spiritual life?

LIVE GENEROUSLY

7) Ezekiel repeated what God told him to say without adding his own opinions or feelings, and the bones responded. How does this challenge the way you encourage others or the way you talk to yourself during difficult seasons? How can you focus on speaking the truth of God's Word into every situation where only it can make a lasting impact?

8) The Spirit brought the army to life, and the first thing they did was stand. If God's Word brings order to chaos and God's Spirit brings life to the lifeless, what is one concrete practice you could begin or strengthen this week to submit to Scripture, and to depend more intentionally on the Holy Spirit?

9) Isaiah 40:8 reminds us that the word of God endures forever, while everything else fades. How can you better invest in passing that enduring foundation to the next generation, whether through parenting, mentoring, or discipleship?

TAKE ACTION

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement, I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please invite each group member to share their action step, if they have one.

PRAY TOGETHER

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that's weighing on their heart and in need of intercession. Invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to share them with everyone in the group so you can continue praying for one another throughout the week.

ENGAGE TOGETHER



Participate in Northview's efforts to support Flood Relief - Many families across central Indiana have been affected by recent flooding. We have been moved by how our community has responded to those affected. From the very beginning, our heart has been simple: love our neighbors well and meet people right where they are. Needs are changing daily, and our goal is to ensure every resource we receive reaches the right place at the right time. Click the link above to stay informed, stay updated, and get involved!