



## Week 2: *Those Dry Bones!*

### APPETIZER: The Story of Jesus is the Story of...

The story of Jesus is the story of God fusing with the story of humanity in a way that becomes the future story of the universe.

The Story of Jesus is the story of...

1. God
2. Israel
3. Humankind
4. The Universe

→ Ezekiel 36:25-28 & 37:1-14

### DINE IN: The Breath of God

Ezekiel 36:25-28 & 37:1-14; John 20:21-23

#### Ezekiel 37:1-14...

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.  
(Genesis 2:7)

A cheerful heart is good medicine,  
but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.  
~ King Solomon (Proverbs 17:22)

RUAH (Hebrew); PNEUMA (Greek) =  
Wind / Breath / Spirit

### John 20:21-23...

Three theories on forgiving sins...

1. The Apostles as priests
2. The whole Church as priests
3. The whole Church as proclaimers

Three Theories on Receiving the Holy Spirit...

1. First part of a two-part gift (Pentecostal theory + Calvin)
2. A Symbolic Promise of Pentecost (Contemporary Reformed theory)
3. John's version of Pentecost & Great Commission (Growing academic theory)

John 1:33; 7:37-39; 16:7; Ephesians 4:8

### TAKE OUT: Welcoming the Spirit

“RECEIVE (Gk., *LAMBANO*) the Holy Spirit!”  
~ Jesus (John 20:22)

LAMBANO = To (aggressively with initiative) grab and pull toward you.

Welcome the Holy Spirit!  
~ Jesus (John 20:22)

NEXT WEEK: Easter Weekend! (Part 3 of The Death and Life of God)

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. This series is about life and death and life again. How have you experienced this pattern in your life, especially this past week, in big or small ways?
2. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts of encouragement that are connected to this week's teaching?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Ezekiel 36:25-28 & 37:1-14**.
  - a. What is your first impression of these passages?
  - b. The signs of the New Covenant will be God giving his people a new heart, a new spirit, and God's Spirit so he can "move" us to follow him. How can God do this in a way that doesn't control us and force us to do his will? How have you experienced God's convicting and encouraging, yet gentle and not controlling leading? How have you responded?
  - c. Have you ever experienced a "the hand of the Lord upon me" moment or season of life? How does God talk to and lead you most clearly?
  - d. What do you think is the significance of the bones being so "dry"? (Also see **Proverbs 17:22**.) Can you relate?
  - e. These resurrected people become an army. What battles are we called to fight today? (Use Scripture to support your answer.) What does fighting these battles look like for you? Use examples where possible.
  - f. Not having their own land, their own home was dis-locating for Israel. How does the New Covenant solve this sense of place and purpose whenever we are feeling like we are in exile?
  - g. Using the **Ezekiel 37** analogy, how would you describe your own spiritual life these days? Dead and dry? Thin and emaciated? No backbone? More full of hot air than the Spirit? Obsessed with your "flesh" (earthly or bodily distractions and temptations)? Standing tall and ready to fight?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. What is God saying to you, convicting you of, or encouraging you about this week? How are you responding?

Pray through our vision to:

**Equip the church with training and resources you need to joyfully participate in Kingdom mission.**

Pray for Spirit-led courage and creativity to activate our gifts, talents, and passions across the broader Meeting House community.

Note: complete Prayer Guide can be found here

[themeetinghouse.com/prayerguide](http://themeetinghouse.com/prayerguide)

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