

1. The Valley of Dry Bones—Ezekiel 37:1-14 (remember the context of Ezekiel's day—the judgment of God in the form of Babylon crashing down on Jerusalem and Judah; Ezekiel already in exile called to chronicle this traumatic event; God's was leaving his people; the unthinkable was occurring; And as could be expected it seemed to those then that the world was ending; everything was being turned upside down; God left; the temple destroyed; Jerusalem in ruins; no hope and no future. But into this bleak picture Ezekiel speaks a word from the Lord. He shares his experience with God in a valley full of old, dusty bones and the amazing way God brought life back into them. For certain the bones represented Israel—see verse 11—as they cried out)
2. “Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off”—37:11 (For those living the terror—there was not much else they could conclude. The day of the Lord was happening all around them. The glory of the Lord departed from the temple. They were cut off—but they were not forgotten. God still plans for them—that is evident in God bringing life back into the bones and Ezekiel's explanation in the text. It is a vivid metaphor and one that offers us some great lessons)
3. Prophecy to the Bones! (jawbones, tailbones, fingerbones, wishbones)
 - a. God can bring revival! (even when we think he cannot)
 - b. We will have to make some noise! (God's spirit is within us—how can not?)
 - c. It is about knowing the Lord! (and proclaiming his majesty)
4. “Can these bones live?” (YES—it is all about hope and a God who will never, ever give up on us. So—if you have ever felt like Israel—spiritually dried up, no hope and cut off from God—let this visit to the valley of dry bones stir up hope within you; give God the chance to breath new life and new spirit within you)
5. “Hear the Word of the Lord” (and let it penetrate deep into your heart and motivate you to move and make some noise and give God another shot. He stands today—to use another Biblical story—as the Father in the prodigal story—waiting, watching, and wanting you to return—wanting to breath new life into sagging spirituality and new hope into hopelessness. Hear the word of the Lord!)