

Church at Home Pack – 23rd May 2021 - Pentecost

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

Place your hands on your chest and breathe deeply.

Feel the rise and fall of the breath going in and out.

Father God,

Help us to listen for the breath of your Holy Spirit.

Help us to feel the breath of your Holy Spirit.

Help us to welcome the breath of your Holy Spirit.

Breathe your life into us.

Call us, inspire us, challenge us and guide us.

Amen.

Action reminder –

From the top of my head

(Touch head)

to the tips of my toes;

(Touch toes)

from the lobes of my ears

(Touch ear lobes)

to the end of my nose;

(Touch nose)

from my back, to my front

(Turn round)

to my wiggly fingers,

(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)

God loves me!

(jump up and down)

READ TOGETHER

Ezekiel 37: 1-14



International Children's Bible (ICB)



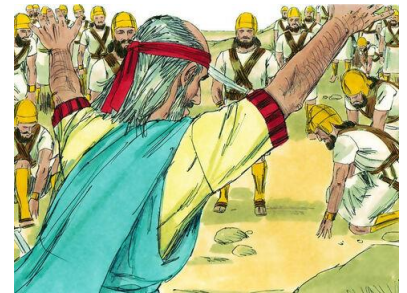
37 I felt the power of the Lord was on me. He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord. And he put me down in the middle of a valley. It was full of bones. ²The Lord led me around among the bones. There were many bones on the bottom of the valley. I saw the bones were very dry. ³Then he asked me, "Human being, can these bones live?"

I answered, "Lord God, only you know."

⁴The Lord said to me, "Prophecy to these bones. Say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵This is what the Lord God says to the bones: I will cause breath to enter you. Then you will live. ⁶I will put muscles on you. I will put flesh on you. I will cover you with skin. Then I will put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. While I prophesied, there was a noise and a rattling. The bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked and saw muscles come on the bones. Flesh grew, and skin covered the bones. But there was no breath in them.

⁹Then the Lord said to me, "Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, human being, and say to the wind: 'This is what the Lord God says: Wind, come from the four winds. Breathe on these people who were killed so they can live again.'"¹⁰ So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me. And the breath came into them, and they came to life. They stood on their feet. They were a very large army.



¹¹Then the Lord said to me: "Human being, these bones are like all the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has gone. We are destroyed.' ¹²So, prophecy, and say to them: 'This is what the Lord God says: My people, I will open your graves. And I will cause you to come up out of your graves. Then I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³This is how you, my people, will know that I am the Lord. I will open your graves and cause you to come up from them. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit inside you. You will come to life. Then I will put you in your own land. And you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it, says the Lord.'"

New International Version (NIV)

37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

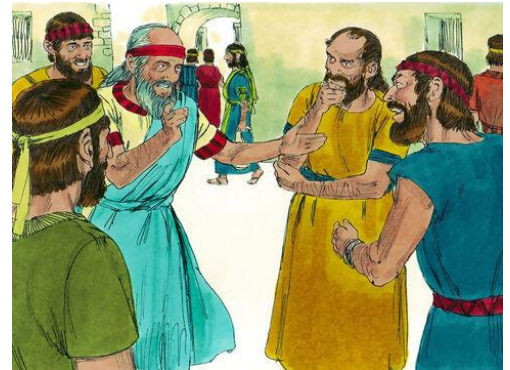
⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you

will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”



WATCH TOGETHER



What is the ***Holy Spirit***? The Bible Project explain here:

<https://youtu.be/oNNZO9i1Gjc>



The children of Toongabbie Anglican Church act out ***Valley of the Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37: 1-14)*** : <https://youtu.be/y-rM71KyL7E>



Ezekiel's vision of dry bones in Ezekiel 37 – Hope Alliance:
(not suitable if you're a bit squeamish)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exZ4exN3pK4>

TALK TOGETHER

- What do we need to keep us alive?
- What does it mean to be alive in Jesus?
- What do we need to become spiritually alive?

STUDY TOGETHER

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel was a priest who was taken captive into exile in Babylon along with the other Israelites. Whilst there, God called him to prophesy to the people, bringing messages of both judgment and salvation.

- Imagine the scene of horror that God shows Ezekiel in this vision (v.1-3). What would you think had happened if you saw this?
- How would you have responded to God if he asked you, "Can these bones live?"
- God gives Ezekiel a very strange instruction to prophesy and preach to the bones. What is the message Ezekiel is told to give (v.4-6)?
- When Ezekiel obeys, what happens (v.7-8)?
- Ezekiel is now faced with a valley of people but they aren't yet alive. What does he have to do next (v.9-10)?
- Remember this isn't an actual real event. It's a vision to teach Ezekiel, the people of Israel, and us, something. The Israelites in exile felt complete despair (see v.11) so how would this message bring them comfort and hope (v.12-14)?

You may be facing a situation which has left you in despair. Take a moment to think of the power of the Spirit bringing life and hope. Do not doubt that God can act.

The passage in Ezekiel shows us, in a very dramatic way, what God's Spirit does in us.

There are times, particularly in the Old Testament, when God fills people with the Holy Spirit for a particular task, role or situation and there were dramatic scenes in the book of Acts when the Holy Spirit first came on the new believers, both Jews and Gentiles.

- There are times today when people have a very powerful experience of the Holy Spirit and it's good to share those with each other, but what does it mean for every believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit as we go about our daily lives? How is his presence and life-giving power seen in us?
- *Read Ephesians 4:18-20* – According to Paul, what are some of the things we will do when we're filled with the Holy Spirit?
- *Read Colossians 1:9-12* – What was Paul and Timothy's prayer for the church in Colossae (v.9)? Why did they want the believers to be filled with the Spirit's knowledge, wisdom and understanding (v.10-12)?
Does this help us to understand what the Spirit of God does in us?

How can you make yourself more open to the Holy Spirit in your everyday life?

- Have a look at some of the suggestions in this pack. Could you try something that you wouldn't normally choose to do? Could that be a way to a fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit?

PLAY TOGETHER

Bubbles – they don't blow themselves....they need your breath!
Just like the bones in the passage needed God's breath to move and be fully alive. In the same way, we need God to breathe his Holy Spirit into us so that we can live in the way he wants us to.



Have a go at making some homemade bubble mixture.

Lots of recipes found online require glycerine – here is one that just uses 4 cups of warm water, ½ a cup of sugar and ½ a cup of washing up liquid

- Mix the warm water and sugar together until the sugar dissolves.
- Whisk in the washing up liquid
- You can use the mixture straight away but if you can leave it for a few hours the bubbles are slightly better.



Some things you might find around the house are great for blowing bubbles through: a funnel, a plastic drinks bottle with the bottom cut off, a straw.

Or you can make a bubble wand from pipe cleaners or some garden wire.

MAKE TOGETHER

Windsock

You will need:

A plastic bottle

Old plastic bags - the more colourful the better! Use ripped or holey bags that are no good for shopping anymore

Scissors

String

Cut a ring from the bottle. Cut the plastic bags into strips. Fold each strip in half and thread the folded end through the bottle ring. You should have a loop on one side of the ring, and the tails on the other. Thread the tails of the plastic strip through the loop and pull gently. Repeat with all of your plastic strips until the bottle ring is completely covered. Attach string to hang it by.

Hang the windsock somewhere where the wind can blow on it, perhaps from a tree branch.

You can't see the wind but you can see the power of the wind moving the windsock. As it moves think about the power of God's Holy Spirit moving in you.



SING TOGETHER

Dem Bones – *The Delta Rhythm Boys*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbWaBV6i2uM>

Holy Spirit – *Francesca Battistelli/CityKids Worship*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QvunZKzLIs>

Freedom – *Bethel Music Kids*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrqViuuyYAQ>

Spirit alive in me – *Kurt Cobie*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_zysxBKSHU

Dry bones – *Lauren Daigle (video by Dan DiFelice)*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqzrTpwXTr8>

Made alive – *Citizens and Saints*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWQ4thTS2kA>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Breath of life

- ❖ Lying down or sitting down, make yourself comfortable
- ❖ Breathe deeply and slowly, in and out
- ❖ As you breathe out, imagine that you are breathing out the tension in your body
- ❖ As you breathe in, imagine you are breathing in God's breath of life
- ❖ Breathe out any fear or disappointment you have felt
- ❖ Breathe in new life and new hope
- ❖ Breathe out regrets and despair
- ❖ Breathe in God's love and goodness
- ❖ Hear God speaking to you
- ❖ Lie or sit in his presence

Father God
You breathed life into my bones.
You have put your Holy Spirit within me.
Guide and strengthen me and
I will live, knowing you as my Lord
Amen



PRAY TOGETHER

If you're able, lie down on the floor

Dry Bones, hear the word of the Lord (*stay on the floor but move arms and legs*)

Dry Bones, can you live? (*sit up*)

Dry Bones, receive the breath of the Holy Spirit (*stand up*)

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the Bible, for the Holy Spirit and for the promise that you bring life. **Amen**

Sing this prayer to the tune of 'Dem bones' as you walk around your house. You might like to make up your own actions.

Jesus gives us (*pause*) new life, (x3)
so hear the Word of the Lord.

Fill our hearts with light, O Lord, (x3)
so hear the Word of the Lord.

Fill our hearts with hope, O Lord, (x3)
so hear the Word of the Lord.

Fill our hearts with joy, O Lord, (x3)
so hear the Word of the Lord.

Amen.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what you love
and do what you would do.

Amen.

DO TOGETHER



Go outside on a windy day...

Stand or sit somewhere for a while where you can feel the wind on your skin.

Close your eyes and ask God to fill you afresh with his Holy Spirit, to give you everything you need to live your life for him

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*Action Reminder, Prayers and Breath of Life reflection taken or adapted from
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