

Ezekiel 37 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

The Vision of the Dry Bones

Introduction:

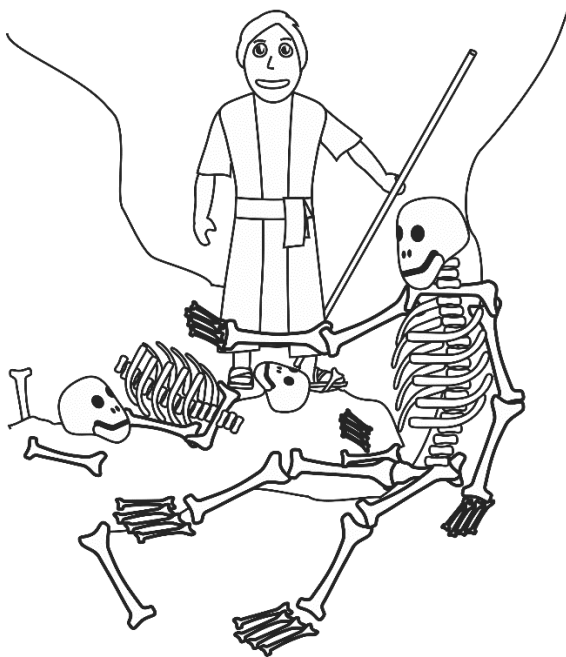
Our first reading comes from the Old Testament. It's from the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel was a prophet. A prophet is someone who listens to the word of God, and then tells others about God's message.

The valley of the dry bones was a vision seen by Ezekiel, not an actual place. A vision is like a dream, a message from God which we see or hear.

Ezekiel's name means, "May God strengthen him."

Listen, as Ezekiel tells us what he saw and heard:

37 The LORD's power came on me. The Spirit of the LORD carried me out of the city and put me down in the middle of the valley. The valley was full of dead men's bones. ²There were many bones lying on the ground in the valley. The Lord made me walk all around among the bones. I saw the bones were very dry.



³Then the Lord said to me, "Son of man, can these bones come to life?"

I answered, "Lord GOD, only you know the answer to that question."

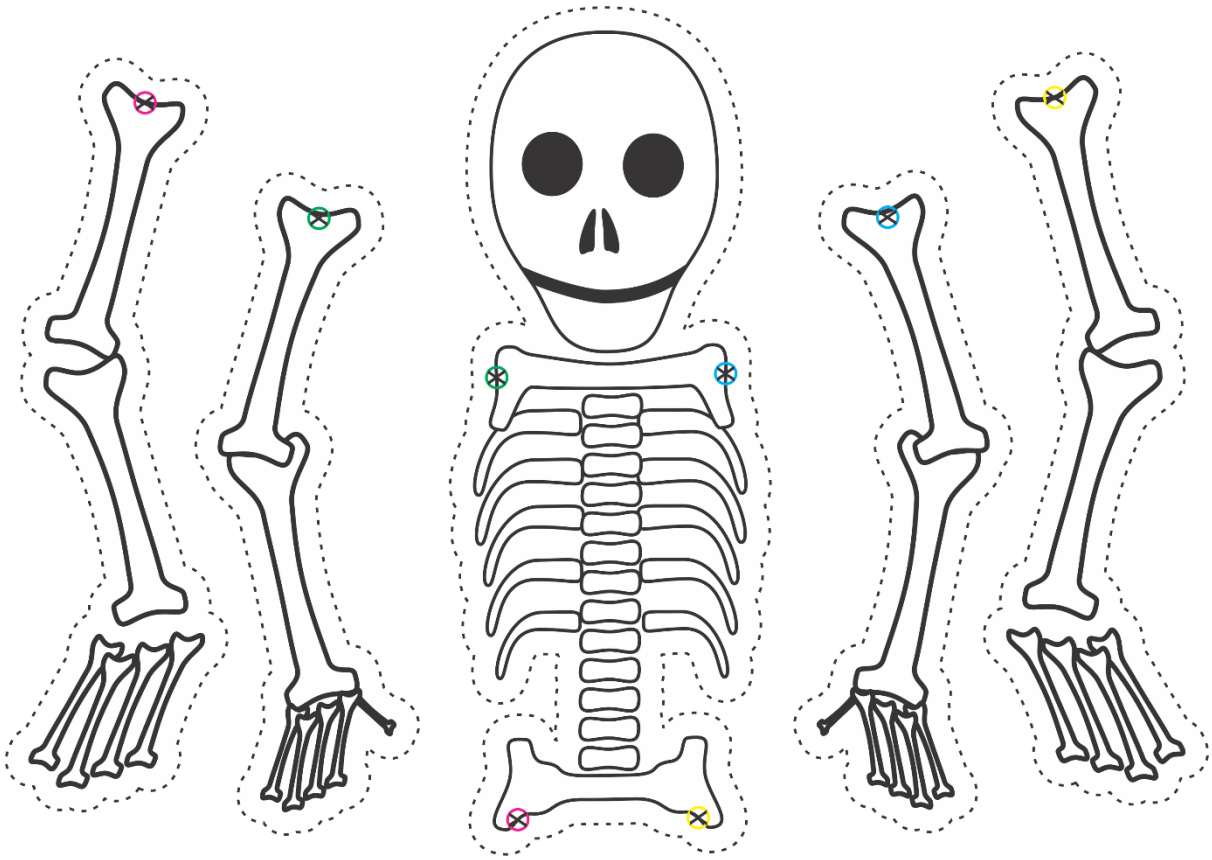
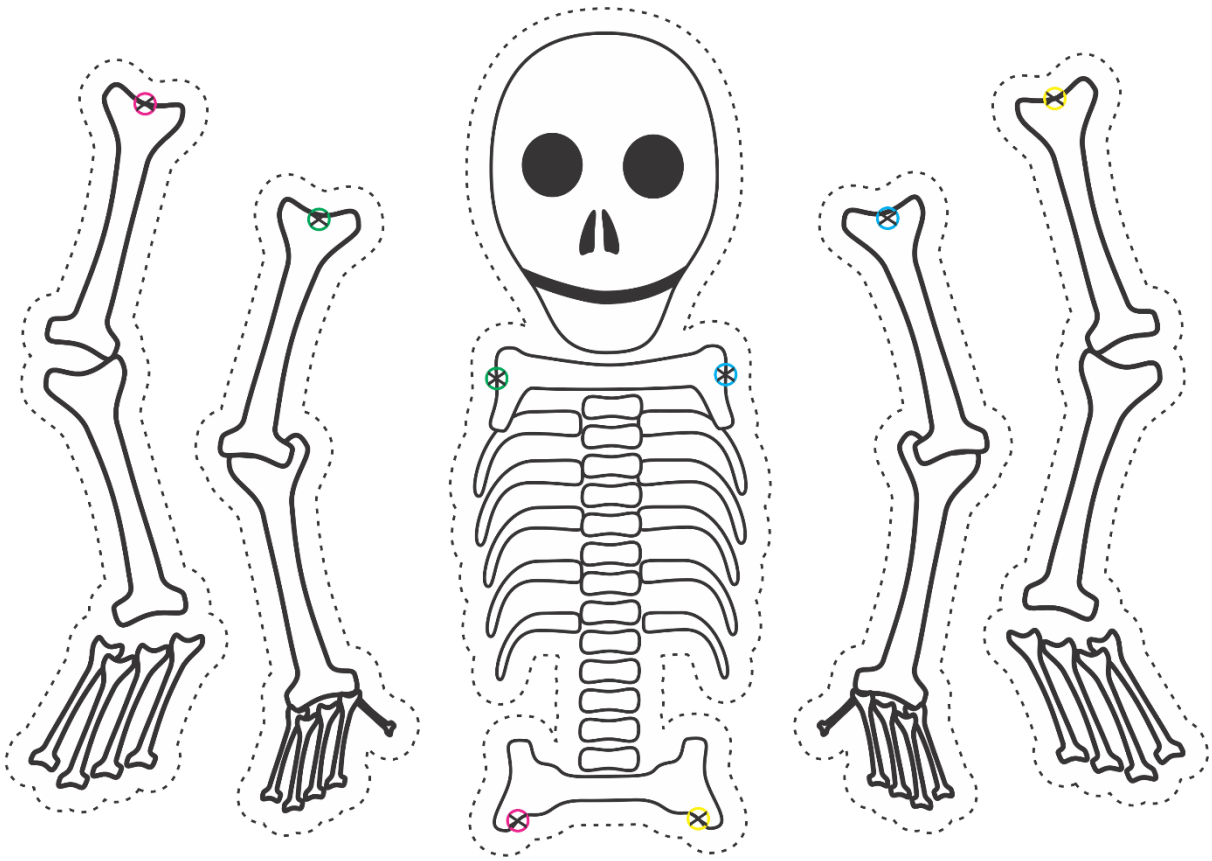
⁴Then he said to me, "Speak to these bones for me. Tell them, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! ⁵This is what the Lord GOD says to you: I will cause breath to come into you, and you will come to life! ⁶I will put sinew and muscles on you, and I will cover you with skin. Then I will put breath in you, and you will come back to life! Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

⁷ So I spoke to the bones for the LORD, as he said. I was still speaking, when I heard the loud noise. The bones began to rattle, and bone joined together with bone! ⁸ There before my eyes, I saw sinew and muscles begin to cover the bones. Skin began to cover them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then the Lord said to me, "Speak to the wind for me. Son of man, speak to the wind for me. Tell the wind that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Wind, come from every direction and breathe air into these dead bodies! Breathe into them and they will come to life again!'"

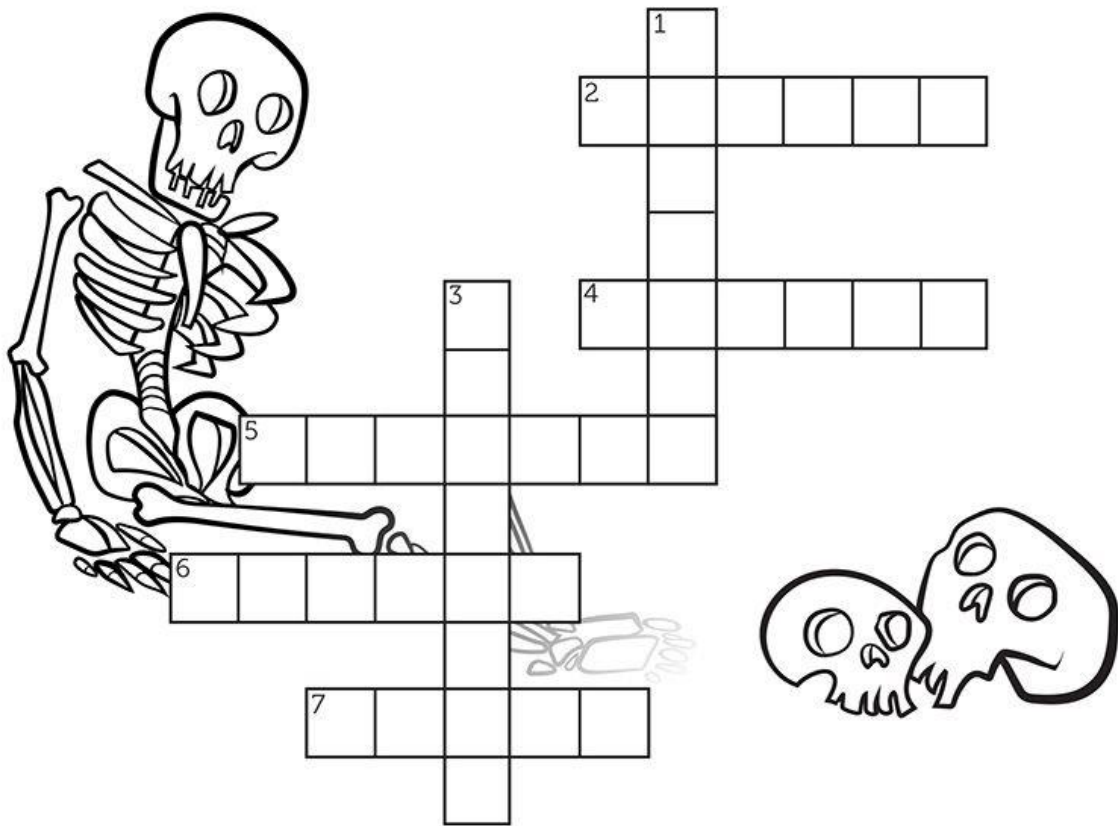
¹⁰ So I spoke to the wind for the LORD, as he said, and the breath came into the dead bodies. They came to life and stood up. There were many men—a very large army!

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are like the whole family of Israel. The people of Israel say, 'Our bones have dried up; our hope is gone. We have been completely destroyed!' ¹² So speak to them for me. Tell them this is what the Lord GOD says: 'My people, I will open your graves and bring you up out of them! Then I will bring you to the land of Israel. ¹³ My people, I will open your graves and bring you up out of your graves, and then you will know that I am the LORD. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you, and you will come to life again. Then I will lead you back to your own land. Then you will know that I am the LORD. You will know that I said this and that I made it happen.'" This is what the LORD said.



VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Ezekiel 37:1-14



Across

2. Ezekiel prophesied that the Lord would fill the bones with _____ and make them live again.
4. Ezekiel's _____ took him to a valley filled with dry bones.
5. The Israelites were taken _____ by Babylon.
6. The bones in the valley represented the _____ of Israel.
7. Ezekiel prophesied that the bodies would be filled with breath from the four _____.

Down

1. When all of this came to pass, the Israelites would know that the Lord fulfilled His _____.
3. After Ezekiel spoke God's prophesy, the valley was filled with a _____ sound.

