

Main Point Because Jesus is alive, it means the hope of life trumps the reality of death.

UNDERSTANDING

Ezekiel 37:1-11.

What sticks out to you the most about the description of the valley? Why was this valley a good picture of the spiritual state of Israel when they were in exile?

This vision was not just about Israel's national exile; it was also about a bigger spiritual exile that we are all a part of. In what sense were all of us exiled, or separated, from God?

Why is it essential that we recognize we all were once separated from God? What happens if we don't recognize it?

Read Romans 3:10-18 and Ephesians 2:1-3.

What similarities do you see between these verses and Ezekiel's vision? Why do you think Ezekiel responded the way he did to God's question (v. 3)? What does that mean about the solution to our spiritual separation from God?

Why is it important that Ezekiel spoke the Word of God over the dry bones before they started to live?

What is the Word of God that God uses to bring us to life? Why must we believe and remember the resurrection of Jesus in order to have hope?

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Read Ephesians 2:4-8. How is this life God brought to us like the life He brought into the valley of dry bones?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. How is death pictured in these verses? Do you typically see death as an enemy? Why or why not? How does the resurrection of Jesus change the way we view the reality of death?

APPLICATION

Where are you in your spiritual journey? Have you truly crossed from being separated to being made alive in Christ? If not, what are some of the things that are holding you back?

If the message that brings life from death is the message of the gospel, who is one person in your sphere of influence who needs to hear this message? How are you going to remind yourself daily that Jesus is alive? What difference do you think that will make in your life?

What are some of the "big rocks" in your life right now? How can our group pray that God would move those rocks in the coming weeks?