Exile

“Ezekiel and Dry Bones”

Series Objective:

 Students will learn:

* The message of the Prophet Jeremiah
* Ezekiel’s encounter with a valley of bones

Series Theme Verse: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” – Jeremiah 29:11

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God used prophets like Ezekiel to speak for God, even when they felt unqualified.

Lesson Passage: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Materials Needed: Bibles, Series Theme Verse on a poster

Lesson Plan:

 \*Before you read the passage, play the song “Come Alive” by Lauren Daigle for the students and have them listen to the words. Ask them what they heard in the song, what words or phrases. If they mention “dry bones,” ask them what they think she meant by “dry bones,” or where she might have got that phrase from.

 \*Now read the passage from The Message version of the Bible so students can hear the story as a story.

 Talking Points: Ezekiel 37:1-14

* Ezekiel spoke for God as a Prophet to the people who had been part of the Kingdoms of the Jewish people, but here, he is experiencing God in a new way. How did he get to where God would speak to him? (Spirit of God brought him out to the valley)
* What was in the valley? (Dry bones)
* Why is it significant that the bones were very dry? (They were old and had been there a long time)
* Were there many bones? (Yes, the valley was covered)
* What did God ask Ezekiel? (Can the dry bones live?)
* What was Ezekiel’s response? (Only you know, God)
* What does God tell Ezekiel to do? (Speak over the bones and tell them God will bring them to life, recreating the body around them)
* Did Ezekiel do what God said? (Yes)
* What happened? (The bones came together with tendon and skin covering them, but no breath)
* What did God instruct Ezekiel to do then? (Speak over the bones and command the breath to fill them again)
* Did Ezekiel do what God said? (Yes)
* What happened? (They came to life and stood up, a vast army!)
* How did God explain this to Ezekiel? (This was a metaphor of what God will do for Israel, bringing them back from Exile one day and then they will worship God)

 The Story Retold:

* Students can be encouraged to move around a designated area until the leader says, FREEZE DRY BONES!
* Immediately the children will stop and freeze.
* The leader can create a Mannequin Challenge video while students are frozen.
* When the leader tells the DRY BONES to come alive, students continue to move around and continue to have students FREEZE and make videos as time allows.

The Story and Me:

* Have the theme verse on a poster board.
* Have students create motions for each word of the verse.
* Say the verse as a group a couple times using the motions.