

Discipleship Guide: Journey of Redemption

Focus: Redemption is not something we can work towards rather, it is something God speaks into being, calling us by name out of whatever has held us and sending us to help others find the same freedom. .

Day 1: God in The Valley

Scripture: *Ezekiel 37:1–3*

Reflection:

The valley Ezekiel enters is not a place of mild discouragement. The bones are dry, which means the death is old and whatever hope once lived here has long since faded. And yet God does not send a report from a distance. God walks Ezekiel through the middle of it. There are places in every life where hope has gone dry, and God does not avoid those places.

Questions:

Where in your life have you quietly stopped expecting God to move?

What does it mean to you that God enters the valley rather than calling us out of it from a distance?

What would it look like to bring your driest places honestly before God this week?

Prayer:

God who enters the valley, I will not pretend that everything is fine. There are places in my life that feel far gone. Meet me there. Walk me through the middle of what I have been avoiding. I trust that Your presence in the valley is already the beginning of something new. Amen.

Day 2: When God Speaks into Hopelessness

Scripture: *Ezekiel 37:4–7*

Reflection:

God does not assess the dry bones and conclude the situation is too far gone. God speaks directly to what appears to be dead, and Ezekiel is told to do the same. His role is to prophesy, to speak God's word into a valley of bones, which from a human standpoint is absurd. But he does it anyway: he prophesied just as he was commanded. We are sometimes called to speak or act in hope before we can see the outcome, not because we are certain of the result, but because we are certain of the One who sends us.

Questions:

Is there a situation in your life where God may be calling you to speak or act in hope before you can see the outcome?

What is the difference between trusting God's word and ignoring the reality of a difficult situation?

What would it mean to prophesy into your own valley this week, even in small ways?

Prayer:

God of the impossible word, give me the courage to trust what You say even when I cannot yet see it. Teach me to speak hope into what feels dead, not because I am certain of the outcome, but because I am certain of You. Amen.

Day 3: The Breath That Restores

Scripture: *Ezekiel 37:12-14*

Reflection:

God creating life out of what seems dead is a promise with no conditions attached. God does not say "if you are ready" or "when you have done enough." God says: I've spoken, and I will do it. The verb in every sentence belongs to God. We do not discipline ourselves into new life. We receive it from a God who has already declared it.

Questions:

Where in your spiritual life are you still trying to produce new life through your own effort rather than receiving it from God?

What does it mean to you that God's promise of redemption is declared, not conditional?

How might trusting God's declaration change the way you approach a specific area of your life this week?

Prayer:

God who declares and delivers, I release my grip on what I have been trying to fix on my own. Breathe Your Spirit into what is dry and still in me. I trust Your word more than I trust my own effort. You have spoken. I believe You will do it. Amen.

Day 4: Called By Name

Scripture: *John 11:38-44*

Reflection:

Everything in Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones declares a promise that finds its embodiment at the tomb of Lazarus. Jesus stands at a sealed tomb and calls one name, not a crowd, not a general announcement, but one name. This is what makes redemption personal. Then comes the communal turn: unbind him

and let him go. Resurrection is God's work, but the unbinding belongs to those who are standing there.

Questions:

What does it mean to you that God's call is personal enough to use your name?

What in your life might God be calling you to "come out" right now?

Who in your life might need you to help them unbind what is still holding them after they have begun to find new life?

Prayer:

God, help me walk in the light. Free me from shame and pretense.

God who knows my name, call me out of whatever has held me.

Where I have stayed in the tomb out of fear or habit, give me the

courage to come out. And give me eyes to see who needs my hands to help unbind them. Amen.

Day 5: New Life from the Spirit Within

Scripture: *Romans 8:10-11*

Reflection:

Paul makes the connection explicit: the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us now. What happened in the valley of dry bones and at the tomb of Lazarus is not ancient history. It is a present reality that brings new life to us right here, right now, not later.

Questions:

How have you experienced the Spirit's life-giving work in your own life?

Where in your life do you need to receive the life that only comes for the Spirit?

What is one thing you can do to allow God to give you this new life, right now?

Prayer:

God of resurrection and new life, thank You for calling me by name.

Thank You for the Spirit that lives in me and continues to breathe

life into what is dry. Send me now to those who need what I have

received. Give me courage to roll away stones, to call names, and to unbind. In the name of the One who does it all, Amen.