



So far in this month's series, we have explored how we are all influencers, God as an influence and Jesus as an influence. In this episode we explore how the Holy Spirit is an influence especially in the dry areas of our lives.

In this passage we see the prophet Ezekial telling us of the time God gave him a vision. Ezekial was living amongst the Jewish exiles in Babylon, giving them words of warning and hope from God. He lived and prophesied with them for around 22 years speaking God's words into their situation. The prophesy in this chapter was giving hope about the future of God's people, how they would be brought back together as a nation.

We will use this prophesy as a way of exploring what other dry areas of life need God's Holy Spirit to breathe life and hope again.

This is released in September at the start of a new school term inviting children to consider where the dry patches are and where do they need God to move and breathe life and hope into.

Be aware of the children in your group and the potential areas that they might want to discuss in response to the story and theme, ensuring we provide an appropriate and safe space for sharing.



How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

(point up with one hand)

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as



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Follow this link to an online version of pickup sticks.

To play this game, you will need either giant pick-up-sticks if you have them, or simply use cocktail sticks, bamboo skewers or garden sticks or canes, depending on how big you want them to be and how many players you have.

To play this game online invite players try to pick up as many sticks within the 30 second time limit. Sticks at the top of the pile must be selected first before you can remove the lower sticks. Take turns and see who can reach the highest number of sticks.

For this story we recommend using the Contemporary English Version

Under fives: Them Bones by Bible Block Stories

Over fives: The Valley of Bones by The Biggest Story

Under fives: Dry bones (Dem bones) by Muffin songs

Over fives: Holy Spirit by City Kids Worship

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

This passage is a great opportunity to have a go at some puppetry work. It is VERY simple to make and work this Paper Boy Puppet, even under fives can get involved in the making and working of the puppet boy.

Here is a video of one of our writer's churches nativity based on a puppet boy – to give you wrw[wrw] an idea of what you can do with





Funnybones is a classic story where a lovable family of skeletons have an evening adventure.

Funny Bones by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

Read by Give us a Story!

- x What is the point of the bones in the story?
- x How does it feel when people aren't listening to you? Does God always listen?
- x What examples of God blowing the Holy Spirit have you seen in your life?
- x What difference has the Holy Spirit made in this story?
- x What other examples of the Holy spirit working in the Bible are there?

- x I wonder what the dry areas are in your life or in the world that you would like God to blow the Holy Spirit into?
- x I wonder if you've felt or seen God's spirit work in your life?



## Praying together: how can you involve the children actively in prayer?

### *You will need:*

- x A4 paper torn in half lengthways
- x Thread
- x Scissors
- x Pens

Sit and reflect on those things in your life that feel lifeless. Share them with God and imagine your dreams and your hopes starting to breathe and coming to life as possibilities. What might you need to do? Write these dreams and hopes onto one of the two pieces of paper. Who needs your prayers? Think about the people who might be sad or worried or sick and write their name onto the second piece of paper. When you have com02 6paper. W nET/Art 92 ( )1.x.













