

# New Life From Dry Bones

## PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Pentecost

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Memory Verse:** I will put my Spirit in you and you will live. - Ezekiel 37:14

## The Children's Sermon

If you listen to the words we use in our worship today – in the Bible readings, in the sermon, and in today's hymns, you will hear a lot of talk about breathing life into people. Today is called Pentecost. It comes roughly 50 days after our Easter, but back in Bible times, it was 50 days after the Passover. It was a holiday for the Jewish people long before it became a Christian holiday. But something very special happened one particular Pentecost many years ago, just after Jesus rose from the dead. On this particular Pentecost, God took advantage of the fact that many Jews were gathered in Jerusalem for the celebration of Jewish Pentecost. They weren't dead like the bones in our Ezekiel story, but even so, God came to them and breathed new life into them and changed them. God took a group of rattled and confused followers of Jesus, He breathed His Spirit into them and they were brought alive in a new sense. They were filled with energy. They had new insight. They understood each other in a new and different way. They bonded together and began something that today we call the Church. That's why today, we call Pentecost the birthday of the Church.

Now, let's dive a bit deeper into this Pentecost sermon and imagine what it might have felt like to be there on that special day. Picture this: you're sitting in a room with your friends, maybe feeling a little scared or unsure about what's going to happen next.

Suddenly, a sound like a strong wind fills the room, and something amazing happens. It's as if the air itself is alive, and you feel a warmth and energy you've never felt before. This is the Holy Spirit coming to be with you, just as Jesus promised.

This Pentecost sermon reminds us that the Holy Spirit didn't just come to those people long ago; the Holy Spirit is still with us today, breathing life into us, making us feel brave when we're scared, and helping us understand how much God loves us. It's like having a best friend who is always there, guiding us and cheering us on.

Remember, I told you I had two stories to tell you. I think most of you probably know the second story. It is not from the Bible, but it is a good story all the same. It is the story of Pinocchio. Who can tell us something about Pinocchio?

Yes, Pinocchio was a puppet. He was nothing but a few sticks of dry wood screwed together. He was like a pile of dry bones. But after a long series of adventures, which bring him closer to his father, the puppet maker, life is breathed into this puppet and he becomes a real boy. As a real boy, he can love his Father and serve his Father like he couldn't do when he was a puppet.

In our Pentecost sermon today, we learn that just like Pinocchio, we can also be filled with life and purpose. Sometimes, we might feel a little bit like those dry bones or like Pinocchio before he became a real boy. We might feel lonely, scared, or unsure of ourselves. But just as God breathed life into those dry bones and just as Pinocchio was brought to life, God breathes life into us through the Holy Spirit. This makes us alive in a whole new way, ready to love, serve, and follow God.

Let's imagine ourselves as lifeless puppets. Our Heavenly Father is looking down on us and he is breathing life into us. Once again, God will make dry bones walk on this earth to serve and love the Lord. More than that, these dry bones will run, skip, jump, and dance for the Lord. Let's see you move your bones with new life from the Lord.

This Pentecost sermon is a reminder that God's love and the Holy Spirit can change everything. When we feel like we're just a pile of dry bones, God's love can make us feel alive again. It's like when you're playing outside on a sunny day, running around without a care in the world. That joy, that energy, that's a little bit like what the Holy Spirit brings to our lives.

In conclusion, our Pentecost sermon today teaches us about the amazing power of God's love and the Holy Spirit. Just like the disciples long ago, we are given new life and energy to do great things. And just like Pinocchio, we are transformed from wooden puppets into real, loving children of God. So, let's go out into the world, filled with the Holy Spirit, ready to spread love, joy, and kindness everywhere we go. Remember, with God's love in our hearts, we can do anything. Happy Pentecost, everyone! Let's celebrate the birthday of the Church and the new life we've been given.

## Bible Memory Verse

**I will put my Spirit in you and you will live. - Ezekiel 37:14**

You Will Need:

- White paper plates
- Colored tissue paper (red, orange, yellow)
- Glue sticks
- Black markers

-Scissors

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored tissue paper into flame shapes ahead of time.
- Write the memory verse on the rim of each paper plate with a black marker.

Do This:

1. Give each child a paper plate with the verse already written on it.
2. Let the children use glue sticks to attach the 'flames' of tissue paper to the center of the plate, creating a visual representation of the Holy Spirit's presence.
3. Encourage the children to recite the memory verse together after they have finished their craft, reminding them that God's Spirit lives in us and gives us life.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- White balloons (not inflated)
- Permanent markers
- A large box or container

Get Ready:

- Cut the tissue paper into flame shapes.
- Write "Spirit" on each balloon with the permanent markers.

Do this:

1. Tell the children about how God's Spirit brought life to dry bones, making them alive again, similar to the story of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.

2. Give each child a balloon and help them inflate it, explaining that the air inside the balloon is like the breath of life from God that filled the dry bones.
3. Let the children pick tissue paper flames and stick or hold them to the balloon, showing how the Holy Spirit appeared as flames on the disciples' heads. Place the balloons in the large box to represent the gathering of the disciples filled with the Holy Spirit.

## Snack Activity: Breath of Life Snack

You'll Need:

- Mini marshmallows
- Pretzel sticks
- Blue frosting
- Small paper plates
- Plastic knives or spreaders

Get Ready: Place a small amount of blue frosting on each child's paper plate. This will be their 'canvas' for creating.

Do this:

1. Help the children spread the blue frosting over their paper plate to represent the sky. Explain that just like the sky is all around us, God's spirit, or breath, is everywhere and gives us life.
2. Show them how to place pretzel sticks on the frosting to make dry bones, as in Ezekiel's vision. You can talk about how God told Ezekiel that He would breathe life into the bones.
3. Finally, let them add mini marshmallows around the 'bones' to represent the breath of life that God gives. As they do, you can explain that at Pentecost, God sent His Holy

Spirit to give the disciples new life and power, just like He promised to breathe life into the dry bones.

## Game Activity: Wind of the Spirit Race

You'll Need:

- A large open space, preferably outdoors
- Several lightweight scarves or pieces of fabric
- Cones or markers to set up start and finish lines

Get Ready: Set up a start line and a finish line using cones or markers in your large open space. Place the lightweight scarves or pieces of fabric at the start line.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just as the wind moves things, the Holy Spirit moved over the people at Pentecost. Today, they will race to see how they can move with the 'wind' of the Spirit.
2. Have each child pick a scarf or piece of fabric. At the start line, they will hold it in their hand or between their fingers lightly.
3. When you say 'Go,' the children will run to the finish line, trying to keep their scarf in the air, only using their movement to keep it aloft, as if the wind of the Spirit is carrying it. The first one to cross the finish line with their scarf still in the air wins.
4. After the race, gather the children and discuss how the Holy Spirit is always with us, moving us just like the wind moved their scarves.

## Craft Activity: Breath of Life Windsocks

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (red, orange, yellow)
- Streamers or ribbons (red, orange, yellow)
- Glue stick
- String
- Hole punch

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into long strips (about 2 inches wide and the length of the paper). Cut streamers or ribbons into 24-inch lengths. Prepare a sample windsock to show the children what they will be making.

Do this:

1. Help the children glue the strips of construction paper together end-to-end to make a long strip. Then, form a circle by gluing the ends of the strip together, creating the windsock's body.
2. Let the children choose different colored streamers or ribbons and glue them around one end of the circle, hanging down to represent the flames of Pentecost and the breath of life.
3. Punch two holes opposite each other at the top of the windsock (the end without streamers). Thread a piece of string through the holes and tie it, creating a loop to hang their windsock. Explain that the windsock represents the Holy Spirit's power and presence, like the breath of life God gave in Ezekiel 37:1-14.

## Prayer Activity: Breath of Life Prayer

You'll Need:

- A large, lightweight scarf or fabric
- A small, battery-operated fan (optional)
- Pictures of dry bones and vibrant, living landscapes (can be drawn or printed)

Get Ready: Arrange the pictures of dry bones on one side of the room and the pictures of vibrant landscapes on the other side. Place the scarf or fabric in the middle of the room, easily accessible to the children. If using, set up the fan where it can gently blow on the scarf but is safe from little hands.

Do this:

1. Gather the children around the pictures of the dry bones and read a simplified version of Ezekiel 37:1-14, emphasizing how God's breath brought life to the bones. Explain that at Pentecost, God sends us the Holy Spirit, which gives us life and power.
2. Invite the children to stand and take turns gently waving the scarf in the air, pretending it's the breath of God. If using the fan, turn it on to make the scarf move as if by the wind, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. Say, 'Let's pretend this scarf is like the Holy Spirit, bringing life and joy to everything it touches!'
3. Lead the children in a simple prayer, asking God to send the Holy Spirit to give life and strength to everyone in the world, just like He brought life to the dry bones and at Pentecost. Encourage the children to say 'Amen' loudly at the end, celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit.