

I. CHECK-IN

- Check in. How is everyone doing?
- Reflect on last week's challenge:
"Your challenge this week is to spend time reading through Song of Songs (also known as Song of Solomon). What stands out to you? Have you ever heard these stories before? If not, why do you think that is? Take time to journal about this."

II. SCRIPTURE

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

V. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

IV. CHALLENGE

Light a candle in honor of a loved one. As you do, light it with confidence that death does not get the final word and one day you will be reunited with your loved ones in heaven.

III. DISCUSSION

- What stands out to you in the scripture from Ezekiel?
- Have you ever experienced the death of a loved one? What was that experience like?
- Pastor Fernie described the creation of Adam out of dust and the resurrection of dry bones in Ezekiel. What are your thoughts about physical resurrection based on these texts.
- How did this SermonCast challenge your prior ideas about what happens after death?
- Does it make a difference for you to understand that one day heaven will include a physical reunion with our loved ones who have gone before us?
- What are your thoughts on what happened after death now?