**I Will Put My Spirit in You**

**The Word**

Read Together Ezekiel 37:1-14

**The Big Idea**

In the midst of the hopeless and powerless situation Israel faced, God promised to bring about new hope, life, and transformation by the power of his Spirit. As Christians, we are to be people of the Spirit who don’t rely on our own resources, but rather trust in the Spirit’s ability to provide the spiritual resources we most need.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. On Sunday it was suggested that, at least for some of us, our working Trinity is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Scriptures, and that the Spirit tends to be the forgotten member of the Trinity. Do you resonate with that description? Describe your own understanding and experience of your faith and how central the Spirit is or isn’t.

2. Consider the Ezekiel passage itself as well as the brief overview of other Bible passages where we find the Spirit at work. Was there anything in that that gave you new insight into who the Holy Spirit is or that helped you appreciate a specific aspect of his role in a deeper way?

3. Consider the two questions given at the end of the sermon found in the sermon outline: Where do you need God to do a fresh work within you through his Spirit? And where do you need God to do a fresh work around you through his Spirit? Consider answering one of those questions and praying for each other along those lines.

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Dry bones in a valley (v. 1-3)

 A. They are a picture of the hopeless situation of the Israelites living in exile (v. 11)

C. We can all relate to being in a situation where we feel powerless and hopeless.

II. God’s Spirit brings life to these dry bones (v. 4-10)

A. In the original context, this is not referring to a literal resurrection from the dead, but rather a metaphor for God bringing hope and restoration to the nation of Israel.

 1. God will transform their external situation (bring them back into the land)

 2. God will transform their internal situation (give them new hearts)

B. All of this by the power of his Spirit (v. 14)

III. God’s Spirit in the Old Testament

A. Hebrew “ruach” can mean Spirit (v. 1), breath (v. 5) or wind (v. 9)

 B. Examples

1. Genesis 1:2: his Ruach is hovering above the chaotic waters of creation

 2. Genesis 2:7: God breathes his Ruach into Adam and he comes alive

 3. Exodus 14:14: God sends a Ruach to part the Red Sea

 C. God’s Ruach is his own powerful, life-giving presence active in his creation

 1. When his ruach shows up, you expect something significant to happen

 2. He often shows up when human resources have reached their limits

IV. God’s Spirit in the New Testament

A. God gives spiritual life to people who are spiritually dead by means of his Spirit (see John 20:21-22, Acts 2:1-4, and John 3:5-8)

B. One day God will give resurrection life to his people whose bodies have died (see Romans 8:11)

V. Living as people of the Spirit

A. As believers, the Spirit is absolutely central to our lives (He gives us spiritual life, guides us, comforts us, produces his fruit in us, gives us gifts for ministry, and will raise us to eternal life)

B. He is often the forgotten member of the Trinity but this should not be so

C. Being Spirit people means not living lives of self-reliance but rather lives of faith and surrender where we expect God to act in ways beyond our control and abilities.

1. It’s easy to fall back into a self-reliant posture (see Galatians 3:3)

2. Instead we want to live by the posture of Zechariah 4:6: “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit.”

 D. Personal reflection

 1. Where do you need God to do a fresh work within you through his Spirit?

 2. Where do you need God to do a fresh work around you through his Spirit?