

**Gawler Baptist Church**  
***A Pilgrim People***  
**Ezekiel**  
**Study 6 – Ezekiel 37:1-14**

This is one of the more famous passages of the Old Testament and is one that conjures up a great picture of rattling bones! Try to picture what it would have been like for Ezekiel standing in the middle of the valley full of dry, bleached bones.

- God asked Ezekiel if he thought the bones could live. Look at how Ezekiel responded and give some thought as to how you might have answered.

### **Prophecy to the Bones [4-8]**

This must have seemed a strange request on God's behalf, but then that might not have come as a complete surprise to Ezekiel given some of what had already happened to him [for example: 1:4-28; 4:1-17; 5:1-4; 12:3-6]

- Try to picture this actually happening in front of your eyes.

The problem was that there was no breath in the bodies that were formed.

### **Prophecy to the Breath [9-10]**

Ezekiel is then instructed to prophesy to the breath.

- The word breath is the Hebrew word ruah/ruach (alternative spellings are used). The Hebrew word is ruah/ruach which is translated as Spirit in verses 1 & 14, breath in 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10 and winds in 9. What do the various translations of the same word tell you about its meaning?
- This word is used many times in this passage. What does that indicate?
- What happens in this passage is reminiscent of creation [Gen 2:7]. What is the significance of that and what implications does it have for the people of Israel?

### **Prophecy to the People [11-14]**

- Verse 11 indicates what has prompted this prophesy. Consider this in light of Psalm 77:7-9 and 141:7. What was happening for the people?
- It's possible that this prophesy has an immediate focus and a distant focus. How would the people hearing it at the time understood it? What does it have to say into our situation?
- In verse 14 God says that he would put his Spirit in the people and they would live. Obviously they were already alive at the time so what does this mean?
- In verse 14 we again see God's purpose for doing this. In what ways has God shown you that he is the Lord?

If you were to take one thing away from looking at this passage in Ezekiel, what would that be?