



## Ideas for Faith at Home: Week of March 24

During these next few weeks, we will be sharing some ideas to help you grow in faith as a family. Please know that you can reach out to your church staff during this time we are physically apart.

**When I Pray** (from *Prayers for Faithful Families* by Traci Smith)

God, you hear me when I pray.  
Your love is never far away.  
I can pray if I'm happy or lonely or sad.  
I can pray when I'm tired or worried or mad.

I can pray every day and every season.  
I can even pray without a reason!  
Amen.

Challenge: Make this an action prayer... what kind of motions can you make with the words on this prayer? Do them as a family.

Bible Story: Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 (or see the attached abbreviate version attached)

Ask some I wonder questions, don't rush these questions. See how God is already at work. You can ask these "I Wonder" questions about lots of scriptures. Just fill in an appropriate ending to the question to relate to the Bible story you just read.

I wonder if.... I wonder how... I wonder why.... I wonder what...

How do you picture this story? Can you draw this Bible story or make a symbol of God with pipe cleaners, lego, playdough, or something else creative?

### PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Supplies needed: paper or cardstock, 1 dark colored marker, 1 bright colored marker. With the dark marker write OH NO on one side of the paper. Then taking turns, write or draw all the things that are hard about living during COVID-19 (*no sports, no seeing our friends, not going to school, being stuck at home, etc.*). With the bright color marker write HOPE on the other side of the paper. Then taking turns, draw or write in bright marker things you look forward to when the virus is over or good things you see happening even now. Share the prayers with one another- first the OH NO prayers and then then HOPE prayers. Conclude praying the Lord's Prayer together.

Looking for a way to bring faith into everyday life at home, you may enjoy the ideas shared on Faith Finder Fun YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXIPsIx\\_Ov1u8Z-QOOCQDrw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXIPsIx_Ov1u8Z-QOOCQDrw)

Deep Peace to each of you!

Jennifer

## HEARING AND EXPLORING THE WORD



### *A story from the Old Testament*

Ezekiel spoke to people who had been captured in war and taken to a foreign country. They felt like old dry bones. Ezekiel wanted them to know that God was still with them and that their awful situation would not last forever. Many of us sheltering in place for who knows how long need to hear and savor Ezekiel's message. To savor it add sound effects to the reading. Find measuring spoons to jangle, boxes of rice or beans to rattle, even a plastic spoon to bang around in a metal pan to make the sounds of the bones coming together. Blow through your lips to make the sound of God's spirit bringing the bones to life. You may want to read this story once to practice and again to enjoy.

### **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

I felt the powerful presence of the Lord, and his spirit took me and set me down in a valley where the ground was covered with bones. He led me all around the valley and I could see that there were many bones and that they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal man, can these bones come back to life?"

I replied, "Sovereign Lord, only you can answer that!"

He said, "Speak to the bones. Tell these dry bones to listen to the word of Lord. Tell them that I, the Sovereign Lord am saying to them that I will give them muscles, and cover them with skin. I will put breath into them and bring them back to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."

So I spoke as I had been told. While I was speaking, I heard a rattling noise and the bones began to join together. (*Add rattling bone sound effects*). While I watched, the bones were covered with muscles and then with skin. But there was no breath in the bodies.

God said to me, "Mortal man, speak to the wind. Tell the wind that the Sovereign Lord commands it to come from every directions, to breathe into these dead bodies, and to bring them to life."

So I spoke to the wind. (*Add blowing wind sounds.*) And breath entered the bodies and they come to life and stood up. There were enough of them to form an army.

Then God told me that the people living as prisoners of war were like the bones and that they too would one day live again. I am still their God and will bring them back to their homes and find them a new beginning and a new life.

Based on Ezekiel 37:1-14

After the reading ponder a few questions:

How did the people feel when they were prisoners of war?

Are there any similarities to the way we feel today as we face the virus?

What message did God give them through Ezekiel's vision of bones?

How do you think that message made people feel then?

What might God be telling us today?

Hearing & exploring the Word taken from: <https://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2020/03/worshiping-at-home-on-march-29-2020.html>