

GOD THE SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO THE REDEEMED

THE STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD THE SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO THE REDEEMED

John 6:63; Job 33:4; Romans 8:10; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 4:30; Galatians 4:6

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:11

"If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies."

BIG IDEAS

- The Holy Spirit makes God's people alive.
- The Holy Spirit indwells God's people.
- The Holy Spirit helps God's people.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

When the prophet, Ezekiel saw the vision of the valley of dry bones, he prophesied that God's Spirit would come upon the bones and make them alive again. God's Spirit gives life to His people, creating a new heart no longer enslaved to sin inside of them. The Holy Spirit helps God's people and guides them to glorify Him.

THE STORY

The Story is the good news of the gospel. All of Scripture tells the Story of God the Father's work to redeem a people from the power of sin through God the Son so that they might live for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit. During this series we will explore the four main movements of the Story of God, and our response to the life-altering Gospel Story!

BIG AIMS



Every student should know that:

- God is the author, subject, and hero of the gospel story
- Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone



Every student should feel:

- Brokenness over the depth of our sin against God
- Joy in Jesus, our Savior and King



Every student should strive to:

- Describe the gospel message through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation
- Memorize the Bible verse each week



Every student should want:

- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God's story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:11

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.”

God’s Spirit lives inside of His people.

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...”

- When a person turns from his or her sin and believes in Jesus as their Savior, a remarkable thing happens. God gives His Spirit, the Holy Spirit to each and every person who puts their faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit lives inside of that person always.
- The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of God. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of His people as a sign of their new life. Just as the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, He dwells inside of every person beginning the moment they believe in Jesus.

God’s Spirit gives new life to God’s people.

“...He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.”

- The Holy Spirit gives new life to those who have repented and believed in Jesus. Because our sin makes us spiritually dead and leads us to physical death, we are all in need of new life. If we continue to live in our sin, we will continue to be spiritually dead, unaware of the spiritual things in this life.
- When the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us, He brings life with Him, renewing us and creating a new heart inside us. We are set free from the slavery of our sin nature and we were awakened to the spiritual and supernatural working of God in the world and in us.

God’s Spirit gives eternal life to God’s people.

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.”

- We all have mortal bodies because when sin entered the world, death entered it also. Though we are created to live forever, sin changed all of that. Our physical bodies no longer live forever, yet our souls can through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit gives life forever when He indwells believers. This means that though our physical bodies may die, our souls will not. They will live forever because of the power of the Holy Spirit and the salvation that is offered to us through Jesus Christ.

GOD THE SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO THE REDEEMED



BIG IDEA #1: THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES GOD'S PEOPLE ALIVE.¹

[THIS]

Ephesians 2:1 tells us that our sin makes us dead. This death is a spiritual death because we are enslaved to our sin nature. In Ezekiel 37:1-2, the prophet Ezekiel has a vision of a valley of dry bones. These bones represent the deadness of our souls because of our sin. Sin robs us of life and leads us to an eternal death if we die never having saving faith. We have no way of giving ourselves life because our sin blinds us to the truth of God and His Word. We are unaware of the salvation that God offers to us in our own power. Just as the dry bones could not revive themselves, we cannot save ourselves.

[THEREFORE]

What does it mean to be spiritually dead?

We know that death spread to all people through Adam from Paul's writing in Romans 5:12. We are all born separated from God and this means we are all born spiritually dead. Colossians 2:13 also reminds us that our sin makes us spiritually dead. We have no understanding of God and His truth until we have saving faith.

[THIS]

In Ezekiel's vision, he sees God's Spirit breathe life into the dry bones. This picture of God's Spirit giving life points to the way the Holy Spirit gives life to the redeemed. The redeemed are those who have turned from the death-producing sin nature that is in every person to the life-giving salvation found in Jesus. Just as the bones did not cry out to be given new life, we do not naturally seek God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that awakens us to our need for salvation and then transforms our hearts and souls from broken and sinful to new and righteous. The new life we have is a gift from God and happens to every person the moment they turn from their sin and believe in Jesus Christ.

[THEREFORE]

How are we like the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision before saving faith?

The dry bones did not ask to be revived—they couldn't because they were dead. Romans 3:23 tells us that we all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. This means that there is no one who is able to redeem himself or herself. We are all sinful. Romans 3:11 teaches us that none of us seeks God or even understands the things of God apart from His Spirit revealing these things to us. John 6:44 shows us that we receive new life because God draws us to Himself through His Spirit.

Read Ezekiel 37:7-10. Has there been a time when you have been made alive like the bones in Ezekiel's vision? What in your life reveals that the Holy Spirit has given you new life?

Earlier in Ezekiel 36:26, God tells His people that He will remove their heart of stone and give them a new heart and a new spirit, meaning He will place His Spirit in them to give them new life as His redeemed people. The same thing happens to everyone who has saving faith. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. Galatians 2:20 teaches us that being in Christ means crucifying our old, sinful life and living a new life through the power of God's Spirit.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17: *God's Spirit gives new life to those who have saving faith.*

GOD THE SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO THE REDEEMED



BIG IDEA #2: THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS GOD'S PEOPLE.²

[THIS]

In Ezekiel 37:7-14, God sends His Spirit to revive the dry bones, giving them new life. It is God's Spirit that breathes life into them, making them living humans again. When we have saving faith, or we repent and believe in Jesus for salvation, God gives us His Spirit, sending Him to live inside of us for the duration of our life on earth. God sends His Spirit to live inside of His people for several reasons. First, the Spirit is the way in which we are made alive and second, He serves to show the world that we belong to God. He is a sort of seal on our hearts and lives. The Holy Spirit inside of us is a sign that we have indeed trusted Jesus as our Savior and are identified as one of God's redeemed. The dry bones in Ezekiel's vision came to life again miraculously through the power of the Spirit. This miracle revealed the great power of God to make dead things alive again and pointed to the way that God's Spirit works inside of His people.

[THEREFORE]

Why does God send His Spirit to live inside of every believer?

In John 3:6-8, Jesus teaches that it is through the Spirit that we are made new and those who have the Spirit have new life. God sends His Spirit to every believer because it is the Spirit who gives new life. Romans 8:2 also shows us that it is the Spirit who helps people overcome sin and live free from the power of sin.

[THIS]

Because God gives life and all things come from Him, He is the only source of true life. When we receive the Holy Spirit at salvation, we are receiving life because God is life. The Holy Spirit indwells believers and motivates them to obey His commandments. God gives His Spirit to His people to enable them to live in harmony with His Word. God's people are marked by His Spirit because their hearts are made new and instead of loving the things of the world, they love the things of God and seek His glory. God does not leave His people alone in the world; He gives the Holy Spirit to them as their guide and the keeper of their souls. Because the Holy Spirit dwells inside of believers, their bodies are His temple and should be treated as such.

[THEREFORE]

What are some characteristics that reveal that God's Spirit lives inside of someone?

In John 15:5, Jesus teaches that those who know Him and abide in, or are connected to Him through His Spirit, show evidence of having been transformed. Matthew 7:17-20 shows us that everyone who has saving faith and receives the Holy Spirit will live lives that show evidence of this change. All who have saving faith will bear fruit, or have attitudes and actions that show they are followers of Christ.

How should knowing that God's Spirit literally lives inside of us affect how we live, think, and speak in everyday life?

1 Corinthians 3:16 reminds us of the importance and weight of living in such a way that honors God because He has placed His Spirit inside of us. Ephesians 2:19-22 teaches us that God's people are joined together by His Spirit, who lives inside of every believers and collectively they form His temple. Lastly, 1 Thessalonians 5:19 tells us not to quench, or stifle God's Spirit at work inside of us. We should live in such a way that submits to and reveals that we know the Spirit is inside of us and at work in us and through us.

2. Romans 8:11: God's Spirit lives inside of His redeemed.

GOD THE SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO THE REDEEMED



BIG IDEA #3: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS GOD'S PEOPLE.³

[THIS]

In Ezekiel's vision, God's Spirit changed the dry bones from dead bones into living people. God gives believers His Spirit to serve as their helper in this life. For as long as a person walks on the earth, the Holy Spirit is their guide and helper. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God's people are sanctified, or made more like Him in their daily lives. It is God's Spirit that helps believers grow, obey, and become more like Christ. People do not naturally know how to please God. People do not naturally seek the things of God or are even able to understand the things of God without the help of the Holy Spirit. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, God's people can understand His Word, grow in their knowledge of Him, and walk in a manner worthy of Him. It is through the work of the Spirit in God's people, that believers bear the fruit of the Spirit. This means the way they approach life on this earth looks differently than the way an unbeliever approaches this life.

[THEREFORE]

How does the Holy Spirit help God's people to live for Him?

1 Peter 1:2 shows us that it is the Spirit who does the work of sanctification in the life of a believer. Romans 8:13 shows us that it is through the power of the Spirit that believers are able to put to death the earthly things in our lives. The Spirit works inside of a believer to make them more like Christ.

[THIS]

God's Spirit guides His people to bring glory to God. People do not naturally seek the glory of God or live in a way that brings God glory. The Spirit also serves as a minister to God's people. Before Jesus ascended into heaven after His resurrection, He promised to send one who would help His people. The one is the Holy Spirit. It is through the Holy Spirit that God ministers to His people and grows them spiritually. Another way the Spirit helps God's people is by illuminating God's Word to them.⁴ The Holy Spirit serves as a teacher of God's Word to His people and as a guide in this world. God uses His Spirit to reveal Himself more and more to His people and to grow them to be more like Christ.

[THEREFORE]

How has the Holy Spirit served as a help to you in your study of God's Word?

John 14:26 teaches us that the Holy Spirit is our teacher and guides us to understand and know God's Word. Ephesians 1:18 also teaches us that the Holy Spirit enlightens the hearts of believers and illuminates God's Word so that we will be able to understand what we are studying.

How has the Spirit served as a help to you as you strive to live for God?

In Ephesians 3:16, we see that the Spirit strengthens God's people to live for Him and to serve Him. Romans 8:26 shows us that it is God's Spirit that works in our weaknesses to help us bring God glory.

3. John 14:26: God gives the Holy Spirit to His people as their helper and teacher.

4. John 16:13-16: The Holy Spirit teaches God's people His truth and awakens them to His work and truth.