

## 24.02 Ezekiel's Bones and More (Ezekiel 37; see also Ezekiel 33–36; 38–48)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud; they also show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures. Likenesses of characters might change with the variety of pictures. Hopefully, this isn’t too confusing to young minds.
- At least one set of washed and dried leg and thigh chicken bones
- (optional) A small plastic skeleton
- Two sticks on which you will write with a marker, “For Judah,” and “For Joseph”

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print on colorful cardstock and cut apart.

- *vision*: a daytime or nighttime dream
- *valley*: a low area of ground between two higher areas [Teacher, you might make a mini-valley with two shoe boxes covered with green fabric. Visualize the story with your bones in this “valley,”]
- *to prophesy*: to foretell events or to preach God’s Word
- *flesh*: the part of a body that is not bone—the soft part of a body
- *covenant*: a binding agreement between two or more people

### Scripture: (ESV)

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. 2 And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. 3 And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” 4 Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 And I will lay sinews upon 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.”

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

11 Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

15 The word of the Lord came to me: 16 “Son of man, take a stick and write on it, ‘For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him’; then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.’ 17 And join them one to another into one stick, that they may

become one in your hand. 18 And when your people say to you, ‘Will you not tell us what you mean by these?’ 19 say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand. 20 When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, 21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. 23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

24 “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. 25 They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children’s children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever. 26 I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. 27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28 Then the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.”

### **Introduction/Review:**

Jeremiah had been God’s prophet in Jerusalem. At the same time, Ezekiel had been God’s prophet in Babylon, prophesying and using some vivid pictures like a model of Jerusalem, baggage carried through a hole in the city wall, human hair, a fire and pot, and more. In these pictures, Ezekiel had shown the people that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Now that Jerusalem had been destroyed, Ezekiel’s message changed to one of hope: someday God would bring His people back to Judah to rebuild the Temple and the city.

### **Story:**

#### ***Valley of dry bones***

In today’s story Ezekiel had a vision in which the Spirit of the Lord took him to a valley. Can you guess what was in this valley? No, not grass, trees, a lake, or animals were in this valley. Ezekiel’s valley was full of bones—many, many bones—dry human bones.

The Lord asked Ezekiel, “Can these bones live?”

What would you answer? Can a chicken bone become a live chicken again? [No.] Don’t forget, though, that Ezekiel was talking to God. What would you have answered if God had asked you, “Can these bones come alive?” Well, we could not answer better than Ezekiel, who said, “Lord, You know.” Is God able to make dry bones live? Yes, He surely is, but whether or not He wants to make them live is something we don’t know. So Ezekiel said, “Lord, You know.”

#### ***“Prophecy to these dry bones.”***

In this case, God wanted these dry bones to live. He said to Ezekiel, “Prophecy to these bones.”

To bones? Yes, to bones. “Say, ‘O you dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones, “I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put muscles on you and will bring flesh on you and will cover you with skin. You shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.””’” Ezekiel prophesied exactly what God said.

Now, you pretend to be Ezekiel, and prophesy to these chicken bones what God said to say to the human bones. [“The Lord God says, ‘I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put muscles and flesh on you and will cover you with skin. You shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.’”]

As Ezekiel prophesied, he heard a noise and saw those bones shaking. [Teacher, rattle your chicken bones.] The bones came together, bone to the bone that belonged next to it. Then Ezekiel watched the muscles join the bones, and flesh come on them, and the skin cover them. There they were—bodies. [Pause for effect.] But there was no breath in them; they weren't really live bodies.

### ***Living bodies from dry bones***

The Lord spoke again to Ezekiel. "Prophecy to the wind and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these bodies so that they may live.'""

Ezekiel prophesied as the Lord commanded. What do you think happened? Breath came into those bodies; they lived. They stood to their feet—a huge army!

We don't have to wonder what the vision of dry bones' getting bodies and coming to life means, for God tells us. This was a message of encouragement. God said, "These bones are the whole nation of Israel. Israel says, 'Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost. We are cut off.' But thus says the Lord God, 'Even though you are as if you were dead ✓because of your sin and exile, I have opened your graves and have brought you up out of your graves. I shall put my spirit in you, and you shall live. I shall place you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord and that it is I who have done all this.'"

### ***Unity in God's kingdom***

Remember how the nation of Israel had been divided into the north and the south—Israel and Judah? God had another illustration to show what He would do about this division.

God told Ezekiel, "Get a stick. Write on it, 'For Judah.'" Judah was the southern tribe. "Get another stick. Write on it, 'For Joseph,'" By the name *Joseph* God referred to the northern ten tribes of Israel.

Hmm. What was going on here? God explains all of this too. "Join the two sticks to one another so that they are one in your hand." Then God said. "When the people come and ask you, 'What do you mean by joining these two sticks?' Tell them, 'Thus says the Lord God, "I will take the children of Israel from among the nations where they have been taken, and I will bring them into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land of Israel. One king shall be king to them all. They shall no more be two nations.'"

Oh! Isn't this good news? Israel would no more be a divided nation but united! Praise the Lord!

But God wasn't done. He had even better news—news that deals with us today and with a future day in which we can be involved. God said, "They shall no more defile themselves with their idols and false worship. I will save them . . . and will cleanse them; so shall they be my people, and I will be their God."

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's people can live for God Himself and not serve false gods! God Himself will cleanse His people to live for Him!

### ***King Jesus in God's kingdom***

But there's even more that has not yet taken place physically but will one day be fulfilled. God said, "David my servant shall be king over them. They all shall have one shepherd. They shall also walk in my judgments and observe my statutes and do them. And they shall live in the land that I have given to them. And my servant David shall be their prince forever."

David? I thought David had died 400 years before. Who could this be, then? Who would be the prince of God's people forever? This David is David's Greater Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God continued, "I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant. I will set my sanctuary in the middle of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them. For sure, I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Oh, what a wonderful time it will be when the Lord Jesus Christ rules for ever and ever, when sin will be gone and we who are God's people will live with Him forever!

Are you one of God's children who will live with Him forever? Trust Jesus Christ to save you from your sins.

### Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:  
Ezekiel prophesied of David's Greater Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the everlasting King.
- Punishment and restoration: Even though God may punish, He also desires to restore fellowship between His people and Himself. He will forgive the repentant soul.
- Future promises: God will keep His future promises just as surely as He has kept His past promises. To be with Christ forever will be the greatest life of all. To live without sin will be most wonderful.

### Activities:

- Play dough: bones; sticks
- Snack: Breadstick bones (recipe at [Cheesy Halloween Breadstick Bones - Just a Taste](#)). Or for a sweet treat made with pretzel sticks, mini marshmallows, and white chocolate chips, use the recipe found at [Halloween Treat: Edible Skeleton Bones - Family Spice](#).
- Sing "Dem Bones" and have students touch the bones on their own bodies that are mentioned in the song. Two pages of lead sheets are found at the end of this lesson. (Here's a video: [Bing Videos](#).)
- Print and give out a tract, "Ezekiel and the Dry Bones," today's Bible story with a gospel application found at [ezekiel.pub \(ccwtoday.org\)](#).
- Watch a 6-minute video, "Ezekiel See God's Plans for a New House," at [Bible Stories for the Young : Stories \(biblestoriesonline.com\)](#). (Click on "Stories" and scroll about halfway down the page.)
- Review questions: (Game: Print, back with flocked paper or paper towel, and cut between the fingers the picture of the bones of a hand. A student who answers a question correctly places a digit on the flannel board. The last person to answer a question correctly arranges them in the correct order.)
  1. What did Ezekiel see in the valley? [A valley full of dry human bones.]
  2. What happened at first when Ezekiel prophesied to these bones? [They took on flesh.]
  3. Why did Ezekiel prophesy to the winds? [For the bodies to get breath to breathe.]
  4. Fill in the blanks. The meaning of this vision was that although Israel was in a sense "dead," it would \_\_\_\_\_. [Live again, or come back to the land.]
  5. What did Ezekiel write on one stick? [Either "for Judah" or "for Joseph/Ephraim."]
  6. Who will reign over the people in the everlasting covenant kingdom? ["David," meaning David's Greater Son, Jesus.]

### Memory Verse[s]:

- Ezekiel 37:26, 27: "I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

### Handwork:

- Glue Q-Tips® to black paper to make skeletons. Print the verses found below; cut out; glue to the paper.



**vision**

**valley**

**prophecy**

**flesh**

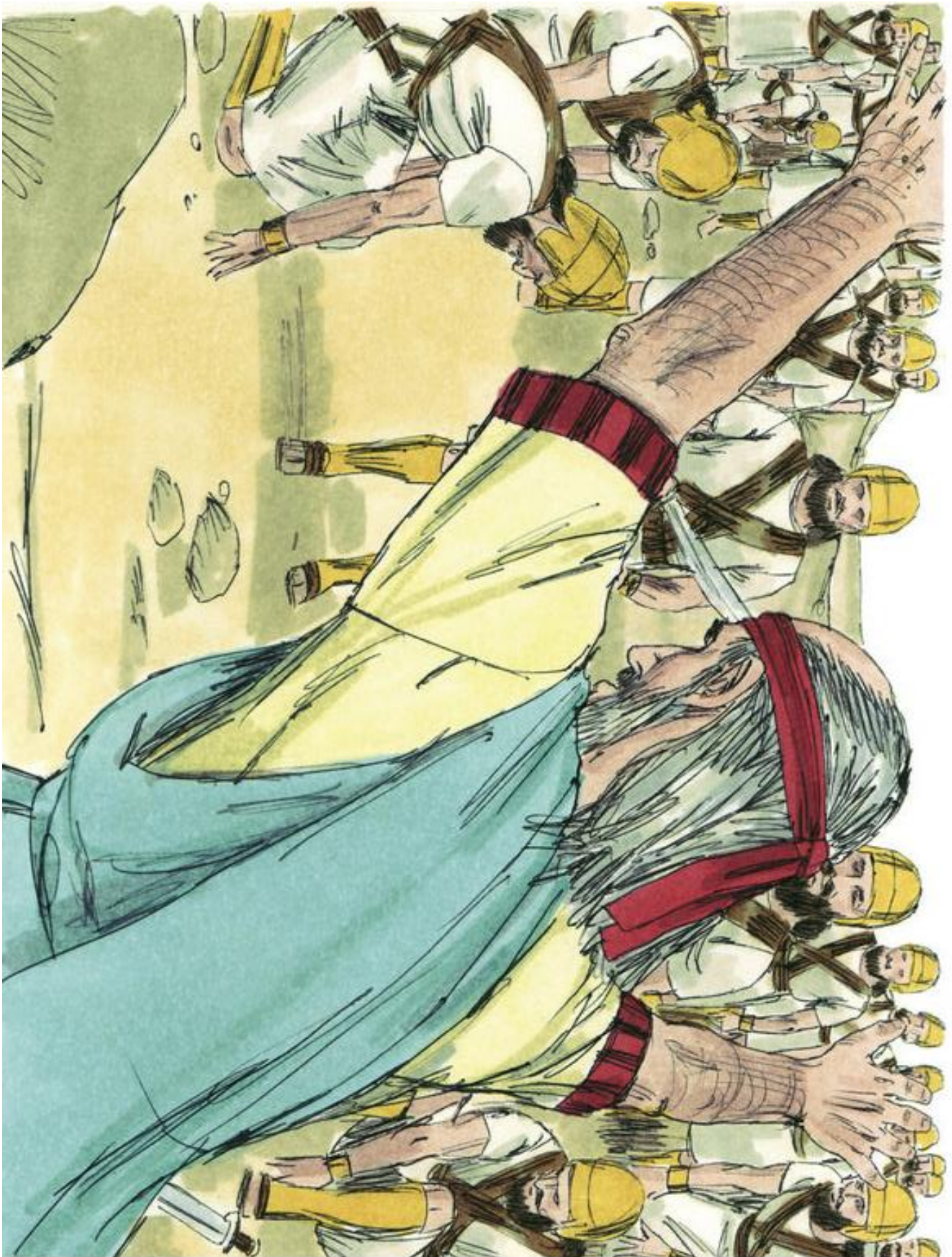
**covenant**











Head

Neck

Back

Thigh

Knee

Leg

Foot

Visual to help readers know the bones in the song, "Dry Bones." Start at the bottom (foot bone) and go up for the first section, of the song and start at the top (head bone) and go down for the second section of the song.

# Dry Bones

Spiritual

D A7

E - ze - kiel cried, "Dem dry bones!" E - ze - kiel cried, "Dem

4 D D

dry bones!" E - ze - kiel cried, "Dem dry bones!" Oh,

7 A7 D D

hear the word of the Lord! The foot bone con-nect-ed to the

10 Eb

leg bone, The leg bone con-nect-ed to the knee bone, The

13 E F

knee bone con-nect-ed to the thigh bone, The thigh bone con-nect-ed to the

16 F#

back bone, The back bone con-nect-ed to the neck bone, The

19 G D7

neck bone con-nect-ed to the head bone, Oh, hear the word of the

22 G  
Lord! Dem bones, dem bones, gon-na walk a-round, Dem

25 D7 G  
bones, dem bones gon-na walk a-round, Dem bones, dem bones gon-na

28 D7 G  
walk a-round, Oh hear the word of the Lord. The

31 G F#  
head bone con-nect-ed to the neck bone, The neck bone con-nect-ed to the

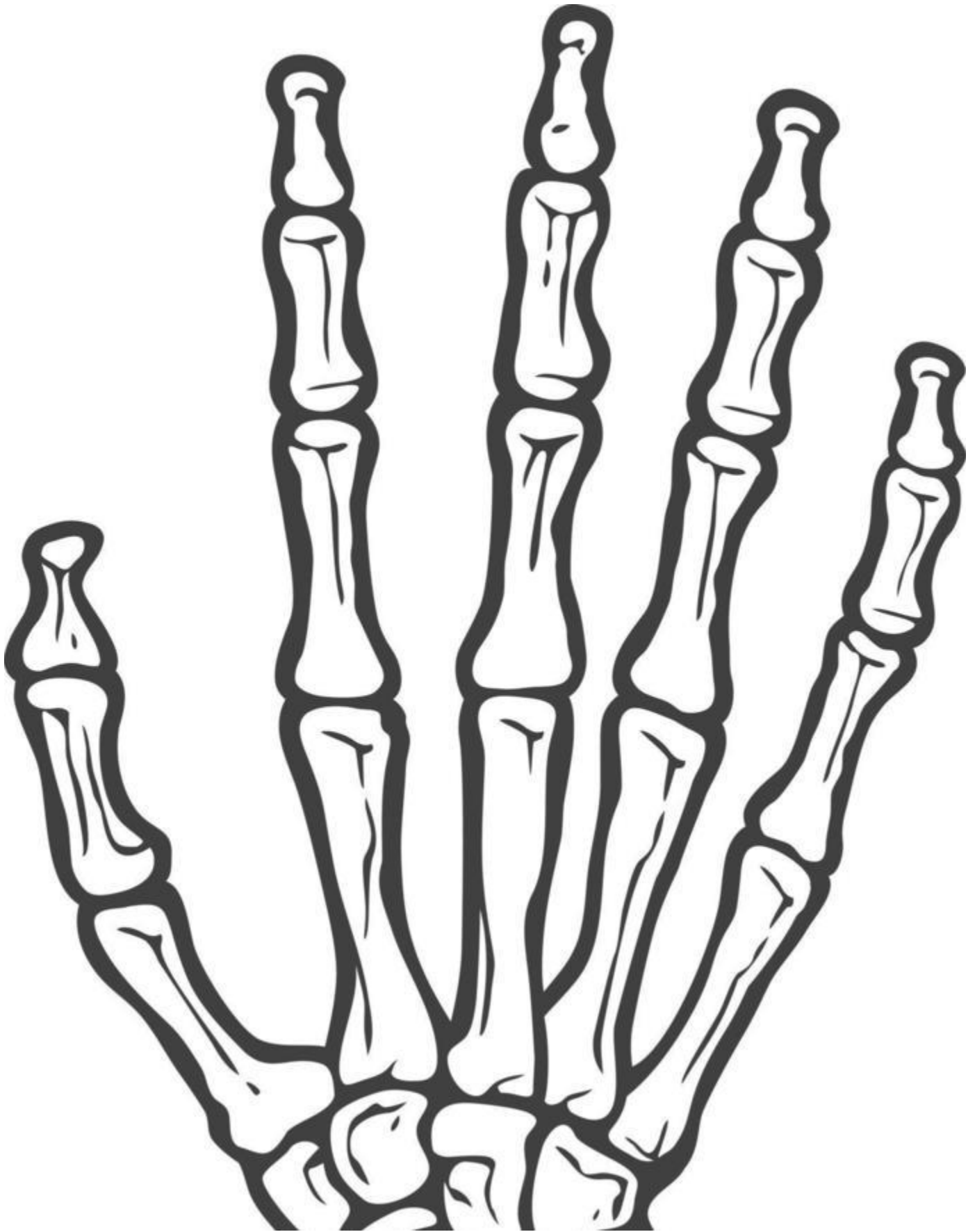
34 F  
back bone, The back bone con-nect-ed to the thigh bone, The

37 E Eb  
thigh bone con-nect-ed to the knee bone, The knee bone con-nect-ed to the

40 D  
leg bone, The leg bone con-nect-ed to the

42 G A7 D  
foot bone, Oh, hear the word of the Lord!

BECOME A BIBLE TEACHER DELICIAE



Ezekiel 37:11-14 "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' . . . Thus says the Lord God: . . . I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord. . . . And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

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