



RUDDERS - And - ROUTES

CHANGE YOUR WORDS AND CHANGE YOUR LIFE

LESSON 7 // SPEAKING LIFE—PART 1

Big Idea: Proverbs 18:21 tell us that “the tongue has the power of life and death.” Your words are powerful! Even in the face of the most devastating realities, as you focus on God and His power, you can speak words that lead from death to life. Let’s look at an incredible story in the Bible that teaches us about this.

Ezekiel 37:1-10 (NIV) *The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’ ⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.” ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet — a vast army.*

Group Discussion:

This weekend we learned about the power of speaking life. What part of the message spoke to you most and why? What is one way that you can/will practically apply what spoke to you the most?

We learned that dead, dry bones in our lives could represent dead hopes, dreams, desires, or relationships. What area(s) of your life could use some reviving?

In the world, it’s often easier to focus on and talk about the negatives, and choose criticism over faith and hope. However, we’re called to live differently. Read and reflect on these verses together in **Romans 8:1-2**, **John 11:25**, and **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**.

Pastor Dale shared that “God calls us to change our focus from death to life.” All of us can tend to focus on the “dead” things (dreams, hopes, relationships, etc.) in our life. What is one step that you can take this week to change your focus?

Think about people around you that are overwhelmed, hopeless or negative. What verses could you share or words of encouragement could you speak over them this week?

Leader Tip:

Think about your life and what areas of your life were once “dead”. How did you speak your life into them? What helped you to believe and speak the promises of God? Feel free to encourage your group by sharing your experience.

Prayer Focus:

Encourage your group to share long-standing prayers they’ve prayed that could use fresh hope and faith. Together, pray over the specific areas that have been shared.