

Hope City

Discussion Guide

August 2, 2026

It's Not Over Yet

Revive me: Week 1

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Main Idea

Faith does not ignore what appears dead; faith believes God can breathe life into it again. The valley is not always evidence that God has abandoned us. It may be the place where He prepares us, strengthens our dependence on Him, and reveals His power. When we respond to God with faith, obedience, and surrender, He can revive the places we thought were beyond restoration. Because God is still breathing, our marriages, families, callings, dreams, and stories are not over yet.

Anchor Verse: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
(Hebrews 11:1 KJV).

Read: Ezekiel 37:1–14 NIV

1. God Will Often Lead You Into the Valley Before He Leads You Out of It

Ezekiel did not accidentally wander into the valley of dry bones. Scripture tells us that the Spirit of the Lord led him there and walked him back and forth through what appeared to be a hopeless situation. Sometimes the place we would never choose is the very place God uses to prepare us, deepen our dependence on Him, and reveal what He is developing within us. The valley forms us privately before God uses us publicly. Dry seasons are not always dead seasons, because God does not waste the places where our faith is being prepared.

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1–2 NIV

Discussion: Reflect on what valley or difficult season you are currently walking through, how that season has challenged your dependence on God, what God might be preparing or developing within you during this season, and how your perspective would change if you believed God had not abandoned you in the valley.

2. God Asked for Faith Before He Sent His Breath

Before anything in the valley changed, God asked Ezekiel, “Can these bones live?” God was not asking Ezekiel to describe what he could see; He was challenging him to consider what he believed. Faith does not deny the reality of a difficult situation, but it refuses to allow that situation to have the final word. God then instructed Ezekiel to speak to the bones before there was any visible evidence of change. Sometimes obedience looks ridiculous before it looks miraculous, but our obedience can become the runway for God’s power.

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:3–4 NIV

Discussion: Where is God asking you to trust Him before you see evidence of change? What is the difference between ignoring reality and refusing to let reality have the final word? Has God given you an instruction that feels uncomfortable, unusual, or difficult to understand? What step of obedience do you need to take even though the outcome is still uncertain?

3. Revival Is More Than Reconstruction — It Is Resurrection

The bones came together, and their bodies were completely reconstructed, but they still did not have life. They had structure, appearance, and activity, but they were missing the breath of God. The Hebrew word *ruach* can mean wind, breath, or spirit and points to the life-giving presence of God. In the same way, people can appear successful, productive, or religious while remaining spiritually empty. Revival is not merely improving our routines or repairing our outward appearance; it is the Holy Spirit bringing genuine life to what has been surrendered to God.

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:10, 14 NIV

Discussion: Where might you have structure or activity without the life-giving presence of God, and how can you recognize the difference between simply improving your behavior and truly experiencing spiritual revival? Consider what distractions or routines may have caused you to become disconnected from God, and reflect on what surrender would look like in the specific area where you most need Him to breathe life again.

SUMMARY

Praise is more than a sound we make—it is the outward expression of a heart surrendered to God. His goodness gives us a new song, His faithfulness reminds us of what our problems try to make us forget, and our praise gives voice to faith before the breakthrough ever comes. No matter what we are facing, we can trust that God is still leading, still pursuing, and still transforming us as we choose surrender over control and praise over fear.

CALL TO ACTION

Replace the Old Sound: Identify one negative thought or statement you have been repeating about a dry or disconnected area of your life, and replace it daily with a truth about God's power to restore and revive.

Praise Before the Breakthrough: Choose one area that feels beyond restoration and intentionally speak God's truth over it and thank Him for His ability to bring life, even before you see any change.

Surrender What You Are Controlling: Name one area you have been trying to manage without God, release it to Him in prayer, and take the next step of obedience He is asking of you. Each day, pray, **"Holy Spirit, breathe on this area of my life again. Revive my heart and help me respond to You with faith and obedience."**

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: What Does It Need?

Purpose: Help the group recognize that something that appears useless or finished may simply need to be reconnected to its source.

The leader will read several objects or situations aloud. Group members have five seconds to call out what the object needs to work, recover, or become useful again.

Use examples such as:

- A cellphone with a dead battery
- A wilted plant
- A lamp that will not turn on
- A car with an empty gas tank
- A flat bicycle tire
- A dried-out marker
- A person who has become dehydrated
- A disconnected television
- A fire that is beginning to go out
- A room that has become completely dark

After each answer, briefly point out that the object may not need to be replaced; it may need power, water, fuel, air, connection, or attention.

Conclude the game by asking:

“Where have you assumed something in your life was dead when it may actually be disconnected from the Source that gives it life?”

Use the answers to transition into the Main Idea and the group discussion.