

# Teaching Notes

Series: God's Gifts to Us  
The Gift of Hope

Advent means \_\_\_\_\_ or arrival.

**Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup> The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. <sup>3</sup> Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?" "O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD!' <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! <sup>6</sup> I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'" <sup>7</sup> So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. <sup>8</sup> Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.'" <sup>10</sup> So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, 'We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore, prophesy to them and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the LORD. <sup>14</sup> I will

put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the LORD has spoken!"

What's \_\_\_\_\_ you of your hope?

On \_\_\_\_\_ or in \_\_\_\_\_ have you given up hope?

Are we willing to \_\_\_\_\_ hope?

It's important that we differentiate between \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_ .

**NIV Hebrews 11:1** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

People with genuine \_\_\_\_\_ have genuine \_\_\_\_\_ .

**NLT 1 Peter 1:21** Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And because God raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory, your faith and hope can be placed confidently in God.