The Holy Spirit and the Resurrection Life
Ezekiel 37:1-14 (and others)

INTRODUCTION:

- **Read Ephesians 1:13-14. From this passage, why is the Holy Spirit given to us when we believe the Gospel ("the message of truth") and place our faith in Christ?**
- **From your understanding, why is the Holy Spirit vital to the Christian life?**

DISCUSS:

1. **Read Ezekiel 37:1-14. In what way was Ezekiel's vision of the *Valley of Dry Bones* a symbolic representation of the state of Israel at that time? In what way could that vision also represent the life of anyone who chooses to live a life without God?**

   - The prophet Ezekiel
       - Lived during the 6th century B.C.
       - Priest who lived out prophetic career under Babylonian exile.
       - Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians 128 years earlier in 721 B.C.
       - Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to the Babylonians in 586 B.C., together with the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

2. **When the Lord asked Ezekiel, "Can these bones live?", Ezekiel replied, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." (37:3) How does this statement demonstrate a posture of surrender from Ezekiel? Why is a posture of surrender required for us to live a life empowered by the Holy Spirit?**

3. It was from a posture of surrender to God the Lord of life that Ezekiel willingly did what was possible for him to do, in obedience to God. He spoke to the bones and to the breath (37:4-10).

   What are some things that we need to be willing to do, if we want to live the life that Jesus' resurrection makes possible?

4. Read John 20:21-22. How does Jesus' actions here, along with His resurrection from the dead, show that God has begun to fulfil what He promised in His vision to Ezekiel in Ezekiel 37?

   How does this give us confidence to trust God with the impossible in our lives?

RESPOND:

5. Spend some time in prayer, lifting to the Lord any "impossible" situations that members in your group might be going through. Pray "Come Holy Spirit" in anticipation and surrender to God, asking Him to make us willing to do whatever He asks of us.