

**COME  
HOLY  
SPIRIT**



# Sermon Growth Guide

**June 5, 2022**

**Ignite Your Word**

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## Come Holy Spirit - Ignite Your Word

### Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Key Verse:** Ezekiel 37:7-8 “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. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.”

**Big Idea:** The Spirit of God is on the move. Your life is in God...and God is in your life.



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## Foundations

This week we begin our *Come Holy Spirit* series, with **Ignite Your Word**.

God the Father and God the Son have sent the Holy Spirit into your life as a Christian. “I will ask the Father and He will give you... the Holy Spirit...who will be in you” (Jn. 14:16, 17, 18). So when did you receive the Holy Spirit as a believer? “When you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit” (Eph. 1:13). What is the Holy Spirit sent to do in your life? “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you” (Acts 1:8).

So, how does the Holy Spirit ignite God’s Word? First, the Holy Spirit inspired the Word of God: “All Scripture is God breathed (the breath of the Holy Spirit) is in God’s Word. Next, the Holy Spirit ignites the Word in our lives: “When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you to all truth” (Jn. 16:13). “The Word of God is living and active...” (Heb. 4:12a.).

Ezekiel cries out to God, “can these bones live?” Then God acts, “...tendons and flesh appeared on these bones and skin covered them,” but there was “no breath in them.” Ezekiel goes on, “...He commanded me, and breath (the Holy Spirit) entered them, and they came to life” (Ezek. 37:3, 8, 10).

## Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Ezekiel 37:3-10. What did God do to the “dead bones” in the valley?

What more needed to happen besides putting “tendons and flesh” upon these bones”? Engage in a discussion of why “breath” was so important to make “these bones live.”

## Applying God’s Word

Holy Spirit indwells your life to “strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being...” (Eph. 3:16). And the Spirit takes God’s Word and causes it to be “living and active” in your life (Heb. 4:12).

When have you experienced being, “strengthened with power” in a circumstance, a relationship, a difficult reality in your life? When in your life has the Holy Spirit taken a verse of Scripture and ignited it so that it became transformative in your life? Which one and how?

## Witnessing God’s Word

It is easy to go to church, worship and listen to the sermon, yet leave without being changed. What needs to happen in each of us to not only hear God’s Word, but have the Word of God “ignite a fire” and “unleash His power” within us?

How can “Word” and “Spirit” work together to give us “life abundant” and at the same time “ignite power” in our lives as believers?

I grew up renting windsurfers and sunfish sailboats on a lake on the south end of town. Colorado wind gave you two options. Either you got out there and it dropped to nothing, leaving you to sit roasting in the sun on water smooth as glass, or you went out in gale force winds ripping across the lake with unpredictable gusts that would send you flipping right over! Either way, whenever I went out I could see the lifeguard in charge of the rescue motorboat checking the gas in the tank. But when it worked, oh wow! There is nothing like pulling the sail in against a steady wind, leaning back and taking that little sailboat up on a rail and blasting across the surface of the water on nothing but the power of the wind. The power of the wind. Church runs on wind power, breath power, Spirit power.

Today is Pentecost Sunday. In Acts 2, the disciples were gathered together in Jerusalem at the Pentecost Feast, a feast held fifty days after Passover, and a festival to celebrate the gift of the Torah, the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses. As they were gathered together, the Holy Spirit came over them like wind and fire. “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 2:2-4). We celebrate this every year. We consider it the birth of the church. The Holy Spirit moves the church. We can’t move without it. We can’t do a thing without the power and energy and motivation of the Holy Spirit. So, we start a series today called **Come Holy Spirit**. We pray for the Spirit to come and ignite us, ignite our lives, ignite this church we get to be

a part of right here, just as before. Come Holy Spirit! Ezekiel will be our guide for this series. Ezekiel dealt in the Spirit of God. The name “Ezekiel” means “God strengthen.” May God strengthen us. May God strengthen this church as we pray Come Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ezekiel’s ministry was to the people of God during the Babylonian Exile, a period of about seventy years when the people had been carried away from Jerusalem and Judea into exile in Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. Ezekiel’s whole ministry was during this time, when the question of the people, aching with disappointment and longing to go home, went from “Can’t God save us?” to “When will God save us?” finally to just, “Will God save? Does God care?” People were sick of hope. Tired of expecting. They felt like dried out bones. “Then he said to me: ‘Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off’” (Ezekiel 37:11). What will God do?

“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. 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. He asked me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ I said, ‘Sovereign Lord, you alone know’” (Ezekiel 37:1-3). I want you to watch for this pattern: the Hand of the Lord, the Word of the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord, then you Know the Lord. The Hand of the Lord was on me, says Ezekiel. God was up to something. Do you ever get that feeling? God is about to do something. I don’t know what, but God is up to something.



Next comes the Word. “Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’” (Ezekiel 37:4). How can dead bones hear the Word of the Lord? The Word is how God speaks to us. God speaks through His Word. The Word of the Lord, remember, has the power to make life. Just as God spoke the universe into existence, the Word of God has power to create, to renew, to bring life. Don’t underestimate the power of the Word of God. Make the dry bones hear God’s Word. “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” (Ezekiel 37:7). Behold, a rattling! Imagine these bones shifting, moving in the dirt, linking together, standing up, clack, clack, clack! Then the tendons and the flesh and the skin all start to come together. God is up to something. This is not human power; this is God’s power. We don’t want to see what we can do; we don’t want to be a people operating only on our own strength, within the limits of our own abilities. We don’t want to see what we can do; we want to see what God can do! When God moves, things change. When God gets involved, everything changes. When God is on the move! Glory. Watch out. Behold a rattling of bones and the standing up of a great army.

Some churches are all Word and no Spirit! Look at the valley now. The dry bones aren’t dry anymore. They have come together in perfect order. The bodies are put back together, all in order. Some churches, like ours, are good at the Word part. We can teach the Word. We can learn the Word. We can understand the Word. But where is the Spirit to ignite the Word?

“I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them” (Ezekiel 37:8). Sometimes we get our ministry plans all in order, we get our church meetings and calendars and approval of resources all in order, and there it stands. Motionless. Some churches are all Spirit and no Word—sometimes you go to a church and they act like there is not Bible to check in on all the “Words from the Spirit” people are receiving. Pastor has received a “word” we are to paint the sidewalk purple. Okay. Fine. Some churches are all Spirit and no Word. We can be all Word and no Spirit. You know? The Hand of the Lord is on the move. The Word of the Lord is clear. But no breath, no wind, no Spirit.

This word for breath is the Hebrew word “ruach.” It is the same word as the Spirit that hovered over the waters in Genesis 1:2. Breath. Wind. Spirit. “Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath [Spirit]; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath [Spirit], from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army” (Ezekiel 37:9-10). A vast army. Alive and on the move! That could be us, church. That could be you! A church alive. We have the Word, we have the bones, we have the muscle, we have the numbers—a vast army! All we need is the Spirit of God to blow down on us and fill us with life! Will you pray, “come, Holy Spirit”?

First Pres is a mission, a movement. Have we become separated? Disjointed? Have we lost some hope that God will move? We are



ready. We stand in the Word. We wait on the Spirit. It will blow. It will blow. If we return to the sailboat, you know, it's really fun to see that wind fill the sail. There is kind of a loud "pferumpf!" when the wind fills the sails. Then things start to move. The Wind is the Spirit. Do you know what the sails are? The sails are you. The sails are the souls, your souls when you allow the Spirit of God to enter and compel you, and motivate you, and move you, and you tilt the boom and adjust the line just a bit to catch that wind—maybe a slight change of habit, or a move away from something God has been prompting you to step away from, or toward something God has been prompting you to move toward. You let the Spirit move you, and you act. How is the Spirit of God moving you right now? How is God trying to capture and move you? Maybe it is just getting back into the habit of church. You have fallen out of the regular pattern of glorifying God in worship, and you can feel it. You can feel the lack of worship, how your soul feels lethargic and choked, like a dead sail. Your priorities feel out of whack. Maybe it's giving. You have not been regularly investing in the work of the Lord. Instead of regular tithing, investing who you are and what you have in what God wants to do, you've watched wealth fizzle away in the markets.

Maybe you have not found a place to serve. We call today My Part Sunday. Between now and Kick Off Sunday on August 14, we want to help you find your place to serve. I want you serving the Lord! And I want you serving your Lord right here at this church, this mission. We are on the brink of something, but we need you. We need every part to play its part. We are committed to being a great place to raise kids in the Lord, but we need camp

counselors, we need VBS teachers, we need drivers and decorators and snack preparers. We are committed to excellence in worship every Sunday. We need choir and praise band members. We need camera and soundboard and slide operators. We need welcomers and ushers and greeters and prayers. We are a church where no one hurts alone. We need people who can visit and pray and keep track of one another. We need Life Group leaders. We need city and global missionaries. You don't have to move overseas to be a missionary—we need you right here! Take a minute. Pray. Grab a book. Grab a card or go online. Let us help you find your spot. Feel the wind of the Spirit fill your sails and move you.

The Hand of God is up to something. The Word of God is sounding off loud and clear. The Spirit of God is on the move—the breath of God restoring life. It's time to glory in the knowledge of God. "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" (Ezekiel 37:6). Knowing God. Knowing that your life is in God and God is in your life. Knowing God. Jesus said there is no greater thing. Jesus prayed for the church. Jesus prayed for us, before he was crucified, before he was buried and rose again, Jesus prayed, "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3) When the Spirit ignites the Word, the church is lit on fire, the soul is filled with wind. Eternal life moves in—knowing Jesus.

