



## EZEKIEL 39

# THE GLORY RETURNS

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 39:25-29, 43:1-5

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Pie tin, 4 tsp powdered sugar, 1 tsp baking soda/ash, sand, lighter fluid

### Open:

At this point, we've spent about 7 weeks in Ezekiel. What can you remember from the stories we've learned and what we've talked about? (Allow the kids to spend a decent amount of time retelling the stories, this acts as a review and helps them to store it in their long-term memory.)

### Explain the Activity:

Take the kids outside. Have prepped a pie tin full of sand. In the middle of the pie tin, build a large mound of the sand and scoop out a hole (basically, make a volcano). Drench the sand of the volcano and surrounding the volcano in lighter fluid. Have this all prepared beforehand.

Outside, explain to the kids that we're going to talk about something amazing that God does throughout Scripture and in our lives: he brings beauty from ashes. You just told me what you remembered from Ezekiel, and a lot of it was hard, wasn't it? The people sinned a lot and God allowed them to face the consequences for those sins. But here is the amazing part-- he doesn't forget about them. He is going to have a new Temple built. And there his glory will last forever and ever. So we are going to see if we can make beauty from ashes today.

### Activity:

Mix together the baking soda and powdered sugar (ashes will work and be better as a visual, but baking soda works well too.) Sugar, on its own doesn't burn, but let's see what happens when we mix the ashes and light it on fire. Fill the volcano with the mixture and light the sand on fire (obviously take proper precautions with children). Over the next ten minutes, the sugar will burn and grow into a sugar snake. Watch while reading the Scripture.

**Read:** Ezekiel 37:1-14, 40:1-5

**Main Point:**

Do you notice how God undoes the pain they went through? If you read more of the passage, you'll notice that the same way God showed Ezekiel all the rooms with sin in them from our earlier lesson, he now shows Ezekiel the new Temple with his Glory entering and staying there. This Temple hasn't been built yet. Some believe it will come right before Jesus returns, others believe it will be the Temple of heaven. Either way, we know that Jesus is returning. When he does, he will take everything broken and hard in our lives and restore it. He will make all things new and beautiful. He will turn ashes into beauty.

Think of a hardship you've faced before. If you can't think of any, think of one you've learned about from the Bible. God took the hardship that Joseph endured by being sold by his brothers and used it to save many lives. He can take hardships and brokenness in your life and turn it around, too. We need to let him. And sometimes, we won't see the beauty until we get to heaven, but we can trust God, knowing that he is in control and he can use everything for his glory.

When you're going through a trial, try to think back on this. Ask God to help you see beauty in ashes.

**Apply it:**

Jesus is coming back. When he comes, he will bring judgement for our sins. Thankfully, Jesus came and paid the price for sin and death. He died on a cross and rose from the grave, defeating sin and death. All who believe with their hearts and confess him as Lord will be saved. That means we admit that we've sinned. We also repent, which means to turn around from the way we were living and turn to how he calls us to live. This isn't easy, and we mess up a lot. But when Jesus is our Lord, we long to live like he did because we trust he knows what is best for us. Our works don't save us, but out of thankfulness for all he's done, we try to become more and more like him. Think about your life right now. We have all sinned and all deserve death as a punishment for our sins. But when we trust in Jesus, he forgives our sins and removes them as far as the east is from the west. If you want to learn more about what it means to trust Jesus, talk to an adult.

If you do know Jesus, this week I want you to pray for a friend who doesn't.

**Memorize:** Ezekiel 39:28**Close in Prayer**