

St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow

open, inclusive, welcoming

*Young Church at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow
for Sunday 29 April 2020
based on the reading Ezekiel 37:1-14
for the Fifth Sunday in Lent.*

What might you want to talk to children about after watching the Ezekiel video?

by Sophie Agrell

After watching the stop motion animation video about Ezekiel, you might want to talk with your children about how they felt and what ideas and thoughts the video brought up—perhaps about what they were worried about. (The whole story is about Ezekiel being dreadfully worried.)

The story is rather odd, because you have a field of dry bones, which come together to make skeletons, get breathed on and come alive. That's just not like normal life. I think, though, it *does* give people an opportunity to ask their children what they might be scared of or worried about in very difficult and unusual times.

Perhaps make a list of all the things the children are scared of, and then set over against the things that give hope and life. Those can be very simple things. In one column the children might write things like missing relatives or going back to school. In the other column, children might write things that counterbalance those things—like modern technology and having a break. It's a very good time to think, talk and make plans.

You might also want to talk about the fact that God doesn't only go around making entire fields of skeletons come to life; and in fact, Ezekiel's vision isn't really about making dry bones come alive. It's about making a people who have lost hope get their sense of hope back. The people listening to the story would have understood this. It is very important parents help children to understand that this story is symbolic—using dry bones to deliver a message.

In a situation where a lot of people are ill or dying, children might wonder why God isn't fixing it. Perhaps in these circumstances, parents could talk about the work that is going on with scientists, doctors, ambulance drivers. Explore how all the different groups in society are contributing—even children by being patient about being stuck at home.