

The Gospel Project for Adults, Fall 2016
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 13

Introduction: *Dead or alive?*

Ask, “What is the difference between something that is dead and something that is alive?” As a class, come up with a definition for the words *dead* and *alive* without using these words themselves in the definitions.

Show this video, “Is It Alive?”:

<http://tn.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.colt.alive/is-it-alive/>.

Point out that some things are alive even though we don’t realize it.

Ask, “Have you ever had something in your life that seemed dead but was really still alive?” Answers may range from a pet goldfish to a marriage. Ask, “What role does God play in making dead things alive?”

Point 1: *Talk about our sense of exile.*

Before class, enlist a volunteer who loves history to do a little research on what the exile of the Jewish nation was, what it looked like, and what really happened. You may want to also read the information at this website: <http://www.simpletoremember.com/articles/a/7-wonders-of-jewish-history/>. (See especially Point 2 on the webpage.)

As a class, discuss how we sometimes feel exiled when our lives enter a new season (living in a new city or state, moving out of our parents’ homes, beginning a marriage, etc.) and how we, like the Jews, can feel dead inside. Say something like, “Just as Ezekiel looked at those dry bones and saw no life, we often think of ourselves as exiled and practically dead.”

Enlist a volunteer to read aloud the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32), noting that *twice* the Father declares that his son “was dead but is alive again” (vv. 24,32). Discuss how we, like the prodigal son, find our dead souls living again when we return to our Father in faith.

Point 2: *Study the nature of God’s Word.*

Enlist some volunteers to read the following passages aloud: Deuteronomy 32:47; Psalm 119:25; 119:107; John 5:24; 6:63,68; and 1 John 1:1.

Ask, “How do these Scriptures portray God’s Word? Are we to take these verses *literally*?”

As a class, consider reading Eugene Peterson's *Eat This Book*—or you might prefer to read a few quotes found here:

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2399253-eat-this-book-a-conversation-in-the-art-of-spiritual-reading-spiritual>

Conclusion: *Reflect through a song.*

As a group, watch the video of Lauren Daigle's song “Come Alive (Dry Bones)”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XAeyFagceQ>

Turn today's lesson inward by asking yourself and the group, “Are we dead spiritually? How can we help others who feel dead understand that there is the breath of life in Jesus Christ?”

Teaching Tip of the Week

Many Christians, even life-long church attendees, are not familiar with the Major and Minor Prophets or the genre of prophecy in general. Read the introduction to Ezekiel in a study Bible or listen to a sermon on Ezekiel before this week's lesson. Studying in this way will make you more familiar with the book and its literary genre.