



### Grain

"If you fell down yesterday, stand up today." H.G. Wells

Submitted by Deb Martin of Oshkosh

### Field

<sup>4</sup>Again "He said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, "'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!'" <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: 'Surely I will <sup>d</sup>cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.'" Ezekiel 37:1-14

### Thoughts

Who hasn't messed up and wondered how to recover from a mistake? Why wasn't I more careful? Why was I so cautious? Sometimes a mistake extends into a lifestyle: a few extra pills creep into an addiction; being quiet to avoid conflict turns into perpetual silence until our voice seems to disappear; a couple of outbursts grow into a way of managing life; lost trust collapses into cynicism and we stop hoping for transformation in anyone or anything. The latter can be especially true when reading the news. Some have felt cynicism for years watching employment opportunities slip away while asking what happened to my land, the one of opportunities? More recently, many have wondered where our country has gone as we witness the oval office sanctioning the scapegoating of individuals and groups including refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ people, especially the T. How do we respond? What is all of this doing to our psyche?

Ezekiel speaks words of hope to people cut off from their land feeling hopeless, helpless, and in a crisis of faith. As for them, God breaths into our dried bones and calls forth new life. Maybe that breath taps in to our inner advocate that has been silent for too long, tempers our demons that have spilled over into relationships, eases us into rest as we realize we are not strong on our own, or revives our hope in transformation. God breathes into dry bones for whatever reason they have become that way. We can always be revived, not as perfect beings never to falter again, but as our muddled selves with new life in community. Happy Monday!

### Prayer

Highly recommended

### Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to [cindyc@loppw.org](mailto:cindyc@loppw.org)

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy

Thanks to Paul Wesselmann for inspiring this format via his Ripples Project and to Dr. Liz TheoHarris for the idea of connecting the Ezekiel text to tapping into our inner advocate (she uses inner activist).