

I could tell that my teacher friend was wearing down. She really loved her students, but they totally wore her down; they simply were exhausting her, and this was especially true as she grew older.

She talked to me of how at the end of a school session, she just seemed to wander around almost aimlessly around her classroom, looking at the disarray she found there. Then as she began trying to put her room back in order, picking up writing utensils and slates and so many of the things that the children had made, she reflected that just as she had to re-assemble the room, she needed re-assemble herself. Many of the things that she picked up were damaged and would either have to be repaired, or if that was not possible, simply thrown away. There was never enough time during the hectic dismantling process to annotate things so that they could be put back together quickly. She realized that in a very similar way she, too, was broken down and scattered, and needed time to recover. And she told me that she needed a blueprint to put herself back together again.

When she mentioned the word “blueprint”, I suddenly imagined the tabernacle, built according to the pattern God gave Moses on the mountain<sup>1</sup>. The Levites had to be able to break that down and put it back together<sup>2</sup> so that it was functional - on a daily basis. I wondered how many times a piece of it got left in the wilderness? Perhaps the Levites were better at putting things together than I was. But we know that disaster could strike if the rules of assembly and transportation were not followed<sup>3</sup>!

In thinking about the teacher’s situation, I also thought about the re-assembly of the dry bones in Ezekiel<sup>4</sup>. Imagine if one of the spirits associated with these bones had to hunt around for the “right” (their own) pieces so that they could be put back together properly! Fortunately, God handles this, for as we know from the Shepherd’s Psalm: “He restores my soul<sup>5</sup>.”

1. see Exodus 25
2. Numbers 1:51
3. 2 Samuel 6:6-7
4. Ezekiel 37:1-14
5. Psalm 23:3a