

Lesson 15

Cross

Formed

Kids

What nation did God grow from Abraham's descendants?

God grew the descendants of Abraham into the nation of Israel.

Read aloud: Genesis 12:1-3

Recommended Illustration

Have you ever heard of Jerry Baldwin? Gordon Bowker? Zev Siegl? Yeah me neither. But they are very important to a lot of us, even though most of us have not heard of them. These guys, just buddies, got together back in 1971 when there were still dinosaurs, phones with cords, and TV's with knobs, and they started a business. It was just a local place to come and buy one of their favorite products. Then in 1981, the Baldwin guy hired a dude named Howard Schultz and everything changed. In the ten years before Schultz was hired, the company only built six stores. In the next ten years, the company was bought by Schultz, and it expanded to 165 stores. Then in the next 15 years, it expanded to 9,000 stores.

Did you catch that? 0-6 in ten years and 6-165 in ten years., and then 165-9,000 in ten more years. That is what I call some growth! You might have a guess, but the name of that company is none other than—(let the kids guess)—Starbucks.

Helpful Insights

Let's compare the story of Starbucks to the story of Abraham. In his entire lifetime the family-nation of descendants that God promised him grew from zero members to one member. Not exactly "more numerous than the stars in the night sky".

In the course of the next few generations, God set to work blessing Abraham's descendants with many more descendants, and even used them to avert worldwide disasters. Ever heard of Joseph? Joseph is the one who came up with a plan to save an entire region of the world from famine. How is that for using what God gives you to bless the nations? So you see, not only was this family-nation blessed, but they began to take small steps towards being a blessing.

Eventually, Abraham's great-great-great-great- great-(a lot of greats ok?)-grandchildren would become the nation of Israel. These are the ones we have heard so much about in Sunday School our whole lives. But Israel is not just something to learn about in Sunday School. Rather, Israel has everything to do with you and me right here, right now.

The Point

Read Matthew 3:9. Jesus distinguishes righteousness by relationship from righteousness by faith. Jesus has come to take our sin so that we can have his righteousness, when we place our faith in him. He takes our place as sinners awaiting a judgment of wrath, so that we can take his place as sons awaiting an inheritance of love and grace. When we place our faith in him, he fills our life with fruit, or evidence of our faith, so that we can know that we really are his.

