

# Lesson 1

Cross

Formed

Kids

## Who is Israel?

Israel is the forever family-nation of God.

*Read aloud: Genesis 35:9-15*

### Recommended Illustration

Ok try not to get too worried, because this might sound crazy. During this lesson illustration, the KIDS are going to be IN CHARGE.

You're going to name a destination and you're going to decide what to do when you get there. BUT—your kids are going to lead you all along the way, giving you a tour of your home, your yard, your neighborhood, wherever you decide.

Here's the fun part. The whole time you're on the tour, you're going to ask over and over again "Are we there yet?" This question will tie into the lesson's emphasis on Israel's LONG journey from promise to fulfillment and what it's like to be on the receiving end of God's promise. Although God's promise is sometimes slow from our limited perspective, it is always SURE.

### Helpful Insights

We have such a hard time waiting for anything. God's first promise to Abraham was to bless him with many children. Abraham lived much of his life childless, then saw the very beginning fruit of the promise, but then died. Israel is the answer to that promise, and the beginning of God answering the third promise as well, that He would forever be the God of Abraham and his children.

God's plan didn't start with Abraham, and it absolutely did not end with Abraham, but His one plan started way back before creation itself, and continues through Abraham, and onto Israel, and eventually all the way to you and me. God has one plan to create one people, His forever family-

nation called Israel. Forever, because God's promise is forever. A family, because Israel is made up of Abraham's children. A nation because Israel is defined by a place and a way of living that makes them different from any other nation in the world. We have much to learn from the way God made Israel, taught them, guided them, and loved them.

### **The Point**

God's covenant is our assurance that he is always near to us when we need him. Even in our trials, he is working for our good, turning even the trials themselves into an instrument of blessing for us.

