

Lesson 12

Cross

Formed

Kids

**Why did Israel need God's Torah?
Only Torah could make Israel a kingdom of
priests and a holy nation, God's treasured
possession among all peoples.**

Read aloud: Exodus 19:1-6

Recommended Illustration

For this lesson you are going to bring to your kids your very most treasured possession. Although it's true that your kids or spouse would probably be the best answer, let's avoid those and instead choose a material object. It'll be more fun that way, and you can always explain that you love your kids and spouse more. Choose something that is absolutely unique to you. What is the one thing that is so precious to you that you would hesitate to let anyone else have it or even borrow it? What is something that matters to you greatly? Help kids see that by many orders of magnitude, God treasures his people more than we treasure anything in the world.

Helpful Insights

What is your most treasured possession? The one you value the most. What creates this value for you? Although Yahweh owns all the nations, Israel is His most treasured possession.

This is not because of what they have done, but because God gave them Torah. Their possession of it makes them special, their keeping of it will add to their blessing as they become the nation through which He shows His glory to all the other nations.

What we have to get our heads around here is this priestly role that Israel plays. They are to be those who mediate between God and the nations. We have examples of this already: Humans mediated between God and creation. Moses mediated between God and Israel. Now Israel is to act as mediator between God and the nations.

Israel's keeping of Torah is to be the means by which God's blessing comes to the whole earth. They become a holy (committed to righteousness) nation because God's Torah is righteousness. (interesting how the New Testament later equates Jesus with Melchizedek, "king of righteousness").

Keeping Torah will demonstrate to the nations that Israel is a nation who knows how to live skillfully because they know God, Creator of all things.

The Point

Only by learning to live in God's way can Israel showcase his wisdom to the world. In the same way, only by living lives of faith, hope, and love can Christians showcase to the world the goodness of Christ and the power of his Gospel.

