

Lesson 13

Cross

Formed

Kids

What reason did Israel have to fully trust God?

God fought for Israel and revealed to them His own covenant name, "Yahweh."

Read aloud: Exodus 6:1-8

Recommended Illustration

Warning: Someone may become very frustrated by this illustration! Gather as many quarters as you can find. Choose one child and ask her over and over whether or not she would like one of your quarters. Each time she says yes, place a quarter in her hand. Ask about her level of trust.

Now choose another child, or if you only have one child, ask the same question, but this time, give them an invisible quarter after they say yes. It probably won't take many invisible quarters for this certain someone to become frustrated. Ask this child about the level of trust.

Explain to your kids that trust is the result of someone being able and willing to do as they've promised.

Helpful Insights

Trust isn't something that develops by accident or even by choice. Trust develops as a result of actions: actions that show the ability to come

through for you, and actions that show a commitment to come through for you.

You can't trust someone who isn't able to take care of you, and you can't trust someone who isn't committed to taking care of you. Trust requires both action and strength, love and power. When we want someone to trust us, we have to show them time and time again that we are able to do what we promise, and committed to doing what's best for them.

God did just that with the nation of Israel. How's this for a list of reasons to trust?

When they were slaves, God rescued Israel from Egypt.

When they were hungry, God provided food for Israel in the wilderness.

When they were homeless, God provided a land for Israel.

When they were weak, God provided victory against their enemies.

You would think that over time Israel would start to trust God. He never promised anything He didn't deliver, and He showed time and time again that He cared about Israel more than anything. In fact it should have been easy for them to trust God. Actions speak louder than words, and memories speak louder than promises.

If nothing else, Israel's memory should have enabled them to trust their God. Not only that, but God made Israel His most prized possession when He gave them His Torah, and revealed to them His name, "Yahweh." He showed that His care was not just another cool thing Israel had going for them. Rather, Yahweh's care was a special gift to the nation of His choosing.

His favored nation was Israel. They were created to be the object of His love forever. If God had a locket, it would have Israel's name inside. He would fight for them, protect them, and love them forever. Why would anyone want to do anything other than trust a God like that?

The Point

Just as God fought for Israel, he has fought for us as well through Christ, who has defeated Sin and Death on behalf of all who believe. Likewise,

God has revealed himself to us especially through Jesus and his Holy Spirit who resides in those who have been made new through faith in the Gospel!

