

# Lesson 14

Cross

Formed

Kids

**What is God's forever plan for the family nation of Israel?**

**God's forever plan is to bless all of creation through the family nation of Israel.**

*Read aloud: Revelation 7:9-12*

## **Recommended Illustration**

Bring a deck of cards and set of dominoes to your discipleship time. In one area, lay the deck of cards as a deck, removing only 4 cards. Lay those 4 cards in a row, placing 2 of the cards face up. One down, one up, one down, one up.

In a second area, lay the dominoes in a pile. Take 4 of them and place them in the same pattern as the cards: one domino standing up, one lying down, alternating every other domino.

Now ask the kids to follow your pattern with the cards, then ask them to do the same with the dominoes.

The goal is for the kids to recognize the pattern, one up, one down, and attempt to imitate it. Use this experience to help the kids see that both for Israel and for us as Christians, being a blessing is about establishing a pattern for others to see.

## **Helpful Insights**

First Adam and Eve, then Abraham, and now Israel are called not just to be blessed, but to be a blessing. It's important to understand, though, that

being a blessing from God to the nations is not as simple as just handing out a lot of presents to everyone.

Instead, being a blessing consists in a way of life that reflects the Love and Faithfulness, indeed the Torah, of Yahweh. There is a pattern of life on display in Israel--Deuteronomy calls it their "wisdom and understanding," a word pair that means something like "the way people know you are different." By living in a way that reflects God's wisdom and understanding, Israel's distinction becomes clear, and the nations' blessing becomes possible.

It is through the Torah obedience of a faithful Israel that the nations are to be blessed. Remember: What does it mean to be the Image of God? God's image represents God on earth, to rule and care for all creation on God's behalf. Why did God bless Abraham? God blessed Abraham so that Abraham would be a blessing to all people. God's blessing of Israel is no different. Its purpose is to make them a blessing to the nations.

### **The Point**

God chooses Israel because of his great love for them. However, his blessing in the life of their nation is not for them only. Rather, it is for all the nations. The same is true of those of us who are in Christ. We have much to be thankful for. But these same blessings are meant to send us on mission, sharing the love and forgiveness of God with our neighbors.

