

# Lesson 17

Cross

Formed

Kids

How did God fulfill His promise to bless Israel with a land of their own?

God gave Israel victory over all their enemies and presented to them a land flowing with milk and honey.

*Read aloud: Deuteronomy 26:1-19*

## **Recommended Illustration**

In this lesson we want to focus on the reality that God is the ultimate keeper of promises. First, ask your kids to share a time when they were the recipients of a promise. Ask them to share a promise that really stands out to them and to describe how it made them feel when it was kept.

Afterwards, share with the kids a time when you were able to keep a very important, or very difficult, promise. Alternately, share a time when someone else kept such a promise to you. If you can think of a time that you failed to keep a promise, sharing this story can be just as helpful.

Whatever story you choose, help your kids to see that God himself is our hope, because he always keeps his promises.

## **Helpful Insights**

Have you ever made a promise you just couldn't keep? Israel is given a promise by God that turns out to be difficult to keep.

Of course, nothing is "difficult" for God. We don't want to focus on that aspect of things. We simply want to be clear that Israel's blessing comes at a cost. A high cost. Nations are driven out of what has been their own land so that Israel can live there instead.

It's easy to brush past these parts of scripture, but it's important to realize that God's blessing to us comes at a cost--a cost to him and, at times, a cost to other people. The nations whom Israel defeated were not happy to have their land taken over by Israel. They weren't happy to be defeated in war and to have their treasures all burned and destroyed.

Nonetheless, Scripture is clear that although Israel did not deserve God's blessing, every nation was more than deserving of his judgment. God was always just as he dealt with the nations, and always loving and gracious in his treatment of Israel.

### **The Point**

God's number one commitment is to His forever plan for the family nation of Israel. So even though it was hard, and even though it came at a high cost, God did what was necessary to keep His promise and to present Israel with their very own land--a land flowing with milk and honey.

