

# Lesson 2

Cross

Formed

Kids

## Where was Israel born?

The descendants of Jacob were born as exiles and slaves in Egypt.

*Read aloud: Acts 7:1-17*

### **Recommended Illustration**

Did you grow up hearing “You can do anything if you set your mind to it!!” Or maybe, “The sky’s the limit!” I did. I grew up hearing and believing that there were really no limits for me. But imagine for a moment if that weren’t true. What if you were born as an exile and slave in Egypt?

In order to illustrate the lesson, talk to your kids about this phrase, and ask them what they would like to do when they grow up. Ask them what ambitions or plans they have for their lives. Ask them what hopes they have for the near future and distant future. Then work through the list and ask them what a life of exile and slavery would do to those plans. Help them empathize with Israel’s plight as they consider their dreams in light of insurmountable obstacles.

### **Helpful Insights**

Things started out okay. Joseph and his family were treated like royalty. They had plenty of land and food, and no one even thought about mistreating them. However, Joseph eventually died. Now they were in a place full of people who were different from them, and who had no reason to respect or take care of them.

Because of this change in circumstance, the children of Israel quickly found themselves enslaved and forced to do more work than they could possibly get done. Not only that, but they were not permitted to worship in the way they had been taught to worship by their ancestors.

They knew they were a special group of people, the recipients of huge promises; but as a family of slaves, it had to be difficult even to remember God's promises, let alone believe them. Their destiny, their future, their hope was completely out of their hands. Only God could provide rescue, so that's who they turned to in their difficulty, hoping somehow He would hear their prayers and make something more out of their family of slaves.

### **The Point**

Israel was God's choice family-nation, and yet they still faced hardship. Then, because of their hardship they were able to see clearly that God alone was the hope of their nation.

