

Lesson 3

Cross

Formed

Kids

How did Israel arrive in Egypt?
God saved both Israel and Egypt from
famine by Joseph's faithful leadership.

Read aloud: Genesis 37:12-36

Recommended Illustration

Have you ever walked around and suddenly found yourself in a place you didn't recognize? The department stores at malls are places this has happened to me countless times. How many exits can one store possibly have? And how many of them can possibly smell like perfume? I've been lost in malls as a child, and felt helpless to find my mom. But I digress. The point is we've all been lost.

In this lesson you'll tell your kids a personal story of being lost and finding yourself in an unexpected place. Then use that story to tie into the story of Israel finding themselves, the people of promise, in a strange land, surrounded by strange people.

Helpful Insights

Israel was meant for the land of promise, but in order to create a people of faith, God needed to teach them to trust Him. God's lesson plan includes difficulty, though even in the midst of that difficulty God is working for the good of the nations-through-his-people. In other words, God is always finding surprising ways to use His people for their own good and the good of those who do not yet know Him.

The entire household of Jacob (Israel) relocates to Israel in order to be reunited with Joseph and escape the difficulties of a famine-ravished land. Of course over the decades, Jacob and Joseph both die, and eventually so do all the Egyptians who remember him. Meanwhile the family-nation of Israel is growing into the whole 'nation' part of their identity and are spreading like wildfire. In this way, they "arrive" in Egypt as a nation of slaves and foreigners. Exodus begins sort of like a dreamer waking to discover that he is someplace besides home. The people of Israel are crying out in distress and their God hears their cries because of His promises to their father, Abraham.

The Point

Israel is formed as a nation of slaves and foreigners. Even their difficulties are part of God's plan to carry out his purposes for them and fulfill his promises to them. What some meant for evil, God meant for good, to form a people after his name from the seed of Abraham.

