

Lesson 7

Cross

Formed

Kids

Why did God listen to Israel's cries for help?

God faithfully kept His promises to Abraham and rescued Israel from exile and slavery.

Read aloud: Exodus 2:23-25

Recommended Illustration

Have your kids ever reminded you of a promise? Maybe in your mind you can hear them right now, moaning, "BUT YOU PROMISED!" Nothing gets me moving faster than being reminded of a promise I have made.

Ask your kids about a moment when they needed to remind you, 'BUT YOU PROMISED' and see what they can come up with. Sometimes their memories can be surprisingly accurate. Help them see that although sometimes mom and dad may have trouble remembering what we said, God never struggles to remember his promises.

Helpful Insights

God's willingness to hear Israel's cries for help is directly related to God's promise to Abraham that He would "forever be the God of Abraham and his children" and to "bless Abraham and his children with a land of their own" God hears Israel not because they were so loud and not because they were so many and not because they were so special, but because God's plan is to bless all humans through Abraham and his children.

The people of Israel, having been promised 1) protection, 2) a land of their own, 3) a special identity as the people of one true God, find themselves seemingly forgotten in a foreign land where they are oppressed and overworked and not allowed to worship their God in the way He has commanded them.

As Exodus opens, Israel's situation is described in summary, and in a word, it is miserable. In the midst of their oppression, the king of Egypt dies, presumably lending hope to the people of Israel. They cry out to God, and their cry "came up to God" (Exodus 2:23). God remembers His covenant and acts in faithfulness to His promises and His plan.

It's important to remember that God's hearing and knowing and remembering in this instant is the result of God's having entered into covenant with Abraham. His love for Israel is settled long before their enslavement, and thus even longer before their prayer for deliverance. It is this relationship that lays the groundwork both for Israel's right to groan and for God's determination to act on their behalf.

The Point

Because God is faithful, He always does what He promises. Because they knew of God's promises, the people of Israel cried out for help in their misery. If we are one of God's faithful ones, we can bring all our complaints to God.

