

Lesson 9

Cross

Formed

Kids

**How did God make Israel into a nation?
God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt
and spoke to them through Moses.**

Read aloud: Deuteronomy 7:1-26

Recommended Illustration

Find something that is special to you. Maybe it's something you like to use, something you like to look at, or something that was given to you.

Whatever the case may be, talk to your kids about how this special item was made. Help them envision the place where it was shaped and pieced together. Talk them through the intricacies of creating this object of your affection. Use this as a tie-in to help the kids imagine Israel created by the very words of God. What a startling contrast. He needs no tools. He needs no materials. He needs no process. Rather, he creates with nothing but his very words.

Helpful Insights

God's formation of Israel as a nation is accomplished jointly by a) His mighty deeds b) His word.

God rescues Israel out of Egypt by His powerful display of sovereignty and superiority over the “gods” of Egypt. God's deeds create a people who celebrate His greatness together.

But God further forms His people by His words, spoken through Moses. Culminating at Mt. Sinai (or Horeb), God forms His people by creating a new written code for them that will give them order and provide a template

for how to live as the people of God. By coming into agreement with God, Israel becomes a nation.

Deuteronomy is a treaty between God and Israel. It is this written contract, "the book of the law" that establishes the terms between the suzerain king, Yahweh, and His people, Israel. The terms of their treaty? Love. Rather than slaves to the whims of Pharaoh and subject to his wicked and oppressive terms, Israel is enslaved only to Yahweh whose only requirement is that they would love him with loyal love.

Don't miss the relationship between this story and the creation story. In both cases, it is God's very words fueled by his unlimited power that bring something out of nothing. What was not a world suddenly is a world. Nothing springs into everything. In the same way, those who were no nation at all are gathered and formed into a nation by God's Word and God's power.

The Point

Because God loves Israel, He freed them from slavery by His power and formed them into a nation by His word. God's word and God's deeds form the basis for all of our hope. His Word assures us what He plans to do, and his deeds show us that he can indeed be trusted. From creation to revelation, we are taught to abide in the Word and the Power of God.

