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SIX LESSONS TO UNLOCKING THE TRUTH  
TO GOD'S HOLY LAND



## LESSON 5

# I.S.R.A.E.L. — Educate

### INTRODUCTION

The "E" in our "I.S.R.A.E.L." acrostic stands for "Educate" — the need for all of us to arm ourselves with knowledge and truth about Israel and God's special covenantal relationship with her.

Through this study, we will explore the reasons why it is important to educate ourselves and others about Israel.

**Through this course to date, what new things have you learned about Israel? Write down whatever comes to mind.**

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**What questions do you still have about Israel, her people, or her history?**

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**What one thing have you learned so far that you think is important to share with others so that they may better understand Israel?**

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### KEY VERSE:

*Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.*  
— PSALM 25:5

*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes,  
he will guide you into all the truth. He  
will not speak on his own; he will speak  
only what he hears, and he will tell you  
what is yet to come. — JOHN 16:13*

### MAIN TEACHING POINT

Educating ourselves and others about Israel can be helpful in building bridges of understanding between Christians and Jews, and in building support for God's people and His land, Israel.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

**Think of a time you thought something was true but later discovered it was not. How did you find the truth?**

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**What other ways can you uncover the truth? Who are people you rely on to find out the truth?**

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**In what ways does God help you discover truth?**

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**Read the following verses and write down what you learn finding the truth.**

Verse	What you learn
Psalm 31:3	
Psalm 32:8	
Psalm 43:3	
Isaiah 28:6	
John 14:26	

**How does learning the story of the Israelites and God's promise to them help you understand the truth about Israel?**

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## Going Deeper

**The biblical account found in Numbers 13-14** takes us to the time just before the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land, the land God had promised to Abraham in Genesis 12. They were nearing Canaan and wanted to know what to expect so God listened to them and ordered men to explore the land.

### **Read Numbers 13:1-3.**

**What does God tell Moses to do?**

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**Why do you think He told Moses to send one leader from each tribe of Israel?**

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### **Read Numbers 13:17-20.**

**What are some of the questions Moses asks the leaders to answer when they explore the land?**

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### **Read Numbers 3:26-29.**

**What good report did the tribal leaders bring back?**

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**What negative report did they give?**

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**Read Numbers 13:30-33; 14:1-2.**

**Why did Caleb silence the people?**

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**What did Caleb say the Israelites should do?**

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**How did the people react to what Caleb had to say?**

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**Read Numbers 14:5-9**

**Who joined Caleb in giving a good report of the land?**

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**What did the two men say the Israelites should do? Why?**

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**Given God's history with the Israelites, who would you have believed? Why?**

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**The people's disbelief and lack of faith made God angry (see Numbers 14:10-12),** but Moses intervened. Moses asked God to forgive the faithless Israelites. God did, but He also said that this particular group of people would not see the Promised Land. However, he did reward Caleb and Joshua's faith and good report by allowing them to live to enter into the land.

**How does the story of Caleb and Joshua remind us of the importance of faith and trust when seeking out the truth?**

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**What do the following verses tell us about seeking the truth?**

Verse	What you learn
1 Kings 3:9	
Job 12:13	
Proverbs 2:3-6	
Colossians 1:9	
James 1:5	

**How does God reveal truth to us today?**

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## Think About It

**Why do you think Caleb and Joshua were able to see what the others weren't?**

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**How difficult do you think it was for Caleb to stand against the 10 other men?**

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**What does it take to stand up and share the truth when others don't? Why is it important to share the truth?**

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**Based on what happened to the Israelites in the story from Numbers, what can happen if we do not stand up for truth?**

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**How can you find out more about Israel? What more do you want to know?**

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**For more teaching about seeking the truth and becoming educated about Israel,** watch the video featuring *The Fellowship* founder and President Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, and his daughter, Yael Eckstein, Executive Vice President.

# Apply It

**Based on our lesson today, think of three ways you can educate others about Israel, her people, and God’s love for His Holy Land.**

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## Hebrew Words for Lesson 5

Hebrew Word	English Spelling	English Meaning
אמת	<i>Emet</i>	Truth
שקר	<i>Sheker</i>	False
שאלה	<i>Sheaylah</i>	Question
תשובה	<i>Tshuvah</i>	Answer
ללמוד	<i>Lilmod</i>	Learn
ללמד	<i>Lelamed</i>	Teach

## Devotional Reflection – The Power of a Good Question

*The discerning heart seeks knowledge,  
but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.*

— PROVERBS 15:14

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should  
ask God, who gives generously to all  
without finding fault, and it will be  
given to you. — JAMES 1:5*



**It's been said that Eskimos have around 50 words for what we call "snow."**

This attests to the importance of snow in the life of an Eskimo.

**Similarly, the Jewish people have around 20 different terms for the word "question,"** because questions are central to living a life with a thirst for biblical wisdom and knowledge.

**In the Bible, parents are commanded to educate their children about the Exodus story.** However, instead of directing parents to tell the story, God tells parents to answer their children's questions about what happened. We read: "*In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt . . .'*" (Exodus 13:14). The Bible doesn't command us to lecture our children about the story of the Exodus. Rather, we are to train our children to ask questions – and when they do, we are to answer them accordingly.

**Why is it so important to ask a question rather than to be told what is important to know?**

Isadore (Israel) Rabi, a Jewish physicist who won the Nobel Prize given in recognition his great achievement in that field, was once asked why he had become a scientist. He answered: "My mother made me a scientist. When other children came home from school their mothers would ask, 'what did you learn today?' But my mother would say, 'Izzy, did you ask a good question today?' Learning to ask questions is what made me a scientist."

**When we ask questions, we are more open to learning.** We demonstrate our hunger for knowledge and our thirst for wisdom. When we ask questions, we are admitting that we don't know something. There is a space inside of us that wants to be filled with something that we don't have. We are open to receive something new, something meaningful, and something significant in our lives. We are open to receiving the truth.

**The Hebrew word for "knowledge" is *chochma*.** Broken down, that word becomes *coach mah*, which means 'the power of asking "what?"' Never underestimate the power of a good question. Good questions lead to powerful wisdom!

In Proverbs we read: "*The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly*" (Proverbs 15:14). It's so easy to accept what everyone else is saying, even if it may be untrue. But if we want to find the truth about anything, we must have a heart that is willing to seek it. We have to be willing to look for the truth, to question what we are told, and to expose any untruths, or lies, we may find.

**Never stop asking questions!** It is through our asking and searching that we will find invaluable wisdom to guide us throughout our lives. Ultimately, as we read in the book of James in the Christian Bible, we can ask God to help us find the truth, to give us wisdom, and He will do so generously: *“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you”* (James 1:5).



## GOOD QUESTION!

**What good question can you ask today?** “How can I make the world a better place?”  
“Do things always have to be as they are?” “What would I try if I wasn’t afraid to fail?”  
Or simply, “Can I be just a bit better today than I was yesterday?”

**The more we ask, the more we’ll know.** The better the questions, the greater the wisdom to follow!