

Gem Seeking

LITTLE GEMS STORY

Parent/Teacher Preparation:

Please see the [Instructions for the Little Gems Story](#) on the YMTOI website. This will help you to understand how to prepare for the story.

Continual Covenants

Shalom children! Shortly after Abram rescued his nephew Lot from the 4 kings who had captured him and his family, Yahweh spoke to Abram in a vision. **(Place younger Abram on board.)** He told Abram that He would be his shield **(place shield on board)**, and also that his descendants would be as many as the stars up in the sky! **(Place stars on board.)** Abram trusted and believed Yahweh's promises, and Yahweh saw this as righteousness. **(Remove shield and stars from board and place Abram's blessing scene on board.)**

Yahweh told Abram that He was making a covenant with him and his descendants. Do you know what a covenant is? It's a contract between 2 or more parties. With Yahweh, it is an agreement in which Yahweh makes promises to His people and requires certain conduct from them. Do you remember another covenant that Yahweh made in an earlier parsha? Do you remember the covenant of the rainbow? **(Place rainbow on board.)**

To make an official covenant with Abram, Yahweh asked him to bring certain offerings. Let's take a look at what they were. Abram brought a 3-year-old heifer, a 3-year-old female goat, a 3-year-old ram, and 2 different birds: a turtledove and a young pigeon. **(Place all animals on board.)** In future parshas we will learn more about offerings, but for now we can see that Yahweh required Abram to bring these sacrifices in order to receive the promises. It seems that Yahweh is always testing us and proving us, so that He knows whether it is in our hearts to obey Him.

After Abram gathered these animals, he fell asleep and had a dream. In his dream he felt a scary darkness. Have you ever had a dream that made you afraid? In his dream, Yahweh let him know that his future descendants were going to be slaves to someone for 400 years. **(Place slave scene on board.)** However, they were also going to be delivered after this, and go out with lots of things to help them get a new start. **(Place bounty scene on board.)** He also told Abram that he was going to live to a good old age and explained where his descendants were going to live.

(Remove all characters from board.)

When Abram was 99 years old **(place older Abram on board)**, Yahweh appeared to him again and spoke to him. He reminded Abram to walk before Yahweh and to be perfect in his walk. Being perfect doesn't mean you will never make mistakes. It means that you always try your best to please Yahweh, because you love Him. Abram was really good at doing that, and He is a good example for us.



Yahweh reminded Abram that he was going to have lots of descendants, but this time He gave him some new information. He told him that he would be a father of many different nations. **(Place nations on board.)** That includes you and me. Boy, is that ever cool!

Then Yahweh told Abram that his name was going to be changed to Abraham because he was going to be a father of many nations. **(Place Abraham name change scene on board.)** Also, many kings were going to be in his line. **(Place king on board.)** Can you think of any kings in the Scriptures that would have been descendants of Abraham? **(Allow children to answer.)**

He also told Abraham that the land that his descendants would possess is called Kena'an. **(Place Kena'an scene on board.)** Even though there were other people living there **(place other nations on board)**, Yahweh wanted his children, Yisra'el, to inherit this land so that they could all be together to worship Him.

The next thing that Yahweh wanted was for all men to be circumcised as a sign of obedience to the covenant between Him and Abraham's descendants. **(Place circumcision scene on board.)** He told them to do this to a baby boy at 8 days old.

(Remove all characters from board.)

Yahweh also changed Sarai's name. **(Place Sarah name change scene on board.)** From now on, she would be called Sarah, because at last she was going to have a son, and many nationalities and kings would also come from her. **(Place Abraham and Sarah with nations around them scene on board.)** He told Abraham that Sarah would give birth to their son Yitshaq **(place Abraham and Sarah with baby Yitshaq scene on board)**, and that with this son, Yahweh would continue the covenant.

Because Yahweh cares about everyone, He reassured Abraham that his son Yishma'el would also be blessed, and would have 12 princes as his descendants. **(Place Yishma'el and 12 princes scene on board.)**

Abraham, Yishma'el, and all the men of his household who were either born to him or bought with silver were circumcised that day to show Yahweh their obedience to the covenant. **(Remove all characters from board and place silver scene on board.)** Abraham was 99 years old when he was circumcised, and Yishma'el was 13 years old. **(Place older Abraham and Yishma'el on board.)**

In this parsha, we have learned a lot about the covenants that Yahweh made with His people. Isn't it wonderful that Yahweh wants to have a relationship with us and that we can be called His children? I know this makes Him very happy. **(Place happy emoji on board.)**

Well children, we have come to the end of our story for today. We will see you next week for another exciting Little Gems story!

