

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.

Like Father, Like Son

Shalom children! Today we are continuing our theme of covenants, and have 2 stories to tell about Abraham and Yitshaq. Very similar things happen in each story, so I like to call these stories, "Like Father, Like Son" and "Wells, Wells, and More Wells!"

Children, do you know what a famine is? **(Let children answer.)** In our first story, Abraham and Sarah found themselves in the middle of a famine, so they traveled south to a place called Gerar, which was ruled by King Abimelek. **(Place Abraham, Sarah and King Abimelek on board).** Now, Sarah was very beautiful, so Abraham and Sarah had already made an agreement that wherever they might travel, if they felt unsafe, they would tell people that they were only brother and sister. So, when Abraham arrived in the area, he told King Abimelek that his wife Sarah was his sister.

The king saw that Sarah was beautiful, so thinking that she was a single woman, he sent for her to be his wife. **(Move Sarah next to King Abimelek and remove Abraham.)** Did you know that this is actually the second time someone had wanted Sarah to be his wife? The first time this happened was when they traveled to Mitsrayim and Pharaoh took Sarah. Yahweh took care of Abraham the first time. Do you think he will help Abraham again? Let's hear the rest of the story to find out.

After Abimelek took Sarah, Yahweh came to the king in a dream and said, "You are a dead man because you took a man's wife." Abimelek was afraid. **(Place scared emoji on board.)** He told Yahweh, "I am innocent." He explained that Abraham had told him that she was his sister. Yahweh knew this was true, so He provided Abimelek the opportunity to fix the situation. As long as Sarah remained in Abimelek's house, his household was going to suffer. **(Remove scared emoji from board.)**

Early the next morning, Abimelek sent servants to bring Abraham to him. **(Remove Sarah and place 2 servants and Abraham on board next to King Abimelek.)** When Abraham arrived at Abimelek's house, the king asked, "Why did you do this to us? What have we done to you?" Abraham explained that he thought the king would kill him to take his wife. Abraham didn't think people in Abimelek's kingdom respected and worshipped Yahweh.

King Abimelek sought to make the situation right with Abraham, and gave him servants and animals. **(Point to 2 servants and place sheep and cattle on board.)**



Then he told him that he could choose to live anywhere in the land. Also, he gave Sarah back to Abraham along with a thousand pieces of silver. **(Place Sarah next to Abraham and place coin bag on board, then remove Sarah from board.)** Then Abraham prayed to Elohim, and the suffering in the king's household stopped. **(Place praying emoji on board.)**

(Remove 2 servants, sheep, cattle, coin bag and praying emoji from board.)

The next time we see Abraham interacting with Abimelek was when the king and his army commander, Pikol, came to pay him a visit. **(Place commander on board next to King Abimelek and Abraham.)** They had noticed the amazing way that Yahweh was blessing Abraham in everything he did. The king asked Abraham to make a covenant of peace between them that they would always treat each other well. Abraham agreed to make this covenant, and gave Abimelek sheep and cattle to seal the deal. **(Place cattle and sheep on board.)** Abraham then took the opportunity to tell the king about the wells that the Philistines had taken from him. The king said he didn't know anything about this, and couldn't think who would do such a thing. He agreed to make another covenant with Abraham, promising that the Philistines would leave Abraham's wells alone. Abraham put 7 ewe lambs between himself and the king to make this covenant. **(Place 7 ewe lambs on board.)** After these events, the king and his commander went home. **(Remove King Abimelek and commander from board.)**

(Place tamarisk tree on board). To thank Yahweh for all his provisions, Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Be'ersheba and called upon His Name.

(Remove all characters from board.)

Years later, during another famine, Yitshaq took all his household to Gerar, just like his father Abraham had done. **(Place Yitshaq on board.)** Yahweh reassured Yitshaq that He would be with him just as He was with Abraham his father, and that He would bless him, making the same covenant with him: He would give him the land and increase his seed like the stars of the heavens. **(Place stars on board.)**

Now, Ribqah was very beautiful, just as Sarah was, and the men of Gerar noticed her in the same way. So, Yitshaq did exactly what his father Abraham had done; he told them that she was his sister. **(Place Ribqah on board.)** But one day, King Abimelek happened to glimpse Yitshaq giving his wife affection, and realized the truth. Right away he told everyone to stay away from Ribqah. **(Place King Abimelek on board.)** I wonder if he did this because he remembered the time that he had taken Sarah, and all the bad things that happened as a result of it!

While Yitshaq was in Gerar, he received many blessings from Yahweh. But the Philistines who did not worship Yahweh became jealous of Yitshaq, just as they had done with Abraham. The local herdsmen went to the water wells that Abraham's servants had dug, and stopped them up with piles of dirt. **(Place well with dirt on board.)**

Because of this, King Abimelek visited Yitshaq and told him he'd better leave. Yitshaq and his family, servants, herds, and flocks all needed water, so they tried moving to another valley. But the herdsmen argued with them over that well too. **(Place men arguing at the well on board.)** So, Yitshaq moved and dug yet another new well. But again the local herdsmen argued over it. There is a saying that goes, "Third time is a charm!" So, one more time they dug a well. This time no one fought over it, so Yitshaq named the place Rehoboth, which means 'end of fighting' or 'peace.'

(Remove all characters except Yitshaq from board.)

Then Yahweh appeared to Yitshaq and once again promised him that He would bless him and increase his seed. Yitshaq built an altar there to Yahweh. He pitched his tent and also dug another well. **(Place altar, tent and well with water on board.)**

Later the Philistine king Abimelek, his commander Pikol and a friend named Ahuzzath came to visit Yitshaq. They realized that Yahweh was with Yitshaq, just as He had been with Abraham. **(Place King Abimelek, commander and Ahuzzath on board next to Yitshaq.)** Yitshaq asked why the king was visiting him, since he hated him and had sent him away. As he had done with Abraham, Abimelek wanted to make a covenant of peace with his son Yitshaq as well. To seal the covenant, they ate together and made a nice feast to celebrate. **(Place feast scene on board.)** After this they departed from each other in peace. Yahweh then blessed Yitshaq with yet another well **(point to well with water on board)**, and Yitshaq named that place Shibah, which means oath.

I really love hearing how people noticed that Yahweh was taking care of Abraham and Yitshaq during a time when others weren't receiving the blessings. Yahweh always takes care of His people when they are obedient. **(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!

