

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.

Brotherly Love

Shalom children! Last week we left Yoseph, the governor of Mitsrayim, serving a delicious lunch to his brothers. **(Place Yoseph and feast table scene on board.)** Do you remember which brother got 5 times as much food as any of the others? **(Point to Binyamin.)** That's right; it was Binyamin, the youngest. Do you think any of them—even Binyamin—had guessed yet who Yoseph really was? No, they didn't have a clue! **(Remove feast table scene from board.)**

Now, after the meal was finished and the servants had cleared off all their plates, Yoseph commanded his servants to load up their sacks with as much grain as their animals could carry. **(Place sack with grain on board.)** Then Yoseph drew his overseer off to the side, and secretly told him to put each one's silver in the mouth of his sack and tie it up, just as he did the first time. **(Place sack with grain and silver on board.)** But then he told his servant to do something even sneakier. He was to take Yoseph's valuable silver wine cup and hide it in Binyamin's sack! **(Place sack with grain, silver and Yoseph's cup on board.)** Now, why would he do that? Listen carefully and you will soon find out. **(Remove all sacks and Yoseph from board.)**

Early the next morning, the brothers set out on their way back to Kena'an, with their donkeys loaded with grain. **(Place 11 brothers and loaded donkeys on board.)** But they had hardly made it past the city gates when they heard shouts behind them. Armed guards were chasing them from behind, and leading them was the governor's overseer, looking very angry. **(Place overseer on board.)** Yoseph had told him what to say to the brothers, and it wasn't nice. "My master was good to you, but you have paid him back by doing evil!" hollered the overseer. "His personal wine cup is missing. Why did you think you could get away with stealing it?" The brothers gasped. "Why, we would never do such a thing to your master! Didn't we try to return to you the silver we found in our sacks the last time?"

They were so certain of their innocence that they made a promise: if the cup was found in any of their sacks, the guilty man must die, and the rest of them would become the governor's slaves. The overseer agreed that the guilty one must be punished. That one must become his slave, while the rest, who were innocent, could be free to return home.



So, the men began to open their sacks, beginning with Re'uben, the oldest, then Shim'on, the second-born, then Lewi, Yehudah, and on down the line. Binyamin was the youngest, so he went last. And of course, we all know what they found! Yes, in Binyamin's sack was the silver cup! **(Place silver cup on board.)** Now, tell me what you might do if you were very, very upset. Have you ever screamed and shouted, or cried and banged on the table? Well, back in those days they might do those things too...but there was another strange thing a man might do. He would actually grab the neckpiece of his tunic with both hands and rip it wide open. **(Place torn garment scene on board.)** Well, when the cup was found in Binyamin's sack, that's exactly what the brothers did, every one of them! Then, with sad faces, they loaded their donkeys again and returned to the governor, falling down on the ground before him. **(Remove all characters from board. Place 11 brothers bowing before Yoseph scene on board.)**

Yoseph pretended to be very angry with them. Once again, they were completely at his mercy. They told him there was no way they could prove that Binyamin was innocent. It was only fair, they said, that they should end up as slaves in Mitsrayim, because of the wrongs they had done in the past. Why do you think they finally realized that they deserved to be slaves? Yes, of course! It's because that is exactly what they had tried to do to their younger brother Yoseph. But how sad that innocent young Binyamin might be made a slave, too!

The governor decided to be fair and said that only the man who stole the cup would become his slave, while the rest could return home. Well, the brothers were horrified to hear this. **(Remove 11 brothers bowing before Yoseph scene from board and place 11 brothers and Yoseph on board.)** Yehudah spoke up and explained why they could not bear to return to their father without Binyamin. He shared the whole story of how their father had a beloved wife who was now gone. She had given him 2 sons, but the first of her sons had been torn to pieces by a wild animal. Of course, we know that was Yoseph! Their father had lived with deep sadness for all these years and had only the youngest son left. **(Place sad emoji on board.)** Yehudah had promised his father that he would take the blame if Binyamin should come to any harm. He couldn't bear to face his father again without Binyamin; why, the old man would simply die of grief! "Take me as a slave instead of Binyamin," Yehudah begged, "and let him return to his father in peace."

Well, that was all Yoseph needed to hear. Truly, his brothers had had a change of heart, and had learned to think of someone else ahead of themselves! He broke down and wept so loudly that the Mitsrites and all Pharaoh's household heard him. **(Remove sad emoji and place crying emoji on board.)** Imagine how puzzled the brothers were, to see this powerful governor of Mitsrayim suddenly start bawling his eyes out! When the governor finally caught his breath, he called out, "I am Yoseph. Is my father still alive?" **(Remove crying emoji and place scared emoji on board.)** The brothers were in shock and began shaking in their boots **(so to speak)**. How on earth could this powerful Mitsrite possibly be their long-lost brother Yoseph, the slave-boy? Now he could have them killed on the spot for what they did to him!



But instead, they heard Yoseph's tender voice, asking them all to come near to him. When they had gathered around him, he said, "Yes, I am Yoseph your brother—the one you sold into slavery. Please don't be upset with yourselves because you sold me here, because I now understand that Elohim sent me ahead of you, in order to keep many people alive." **(Remove scared emoji and place deliverance emoji on board.)**

He went on to warn them that only 2 years of famine had passed **(place #2 coin emoji on board)**, and there would be 5 more years of hunger to come **(place #5 coin emoji on board)**. How many years total is that children? **(Wait for children to answer and place #7 coin emoji on board.)** And now, he said, it was in his power to help them stay alive, because Pharaoh had made him a ruler over the whole land of Mitsrayim. He assured them that he was not bitter or angry, because Elohim had sent him on ahead of them, so that he could save their lives, and the lives of the whole clan of Ya'aqob. "Hurry back to Kena'an," Yoseph said, "and tell our father to gather up the whole family—you, your wives, your children, your flocks and your herds. I have already picked out a place for you to settle in: the region of Goshen, where there is room for all your animals, and space to build homes. **(Place Land of Goshen scene on board.)** You all need to be here with me, so I can protect you and provide for all of you!"

Then Yoseph kissed Binyamin and hugged him, and after that he kissed and hugged all his brothers. **(Place brothers embracing scene on board.)** The Scriptures tell us that after all the kissing and hugging, the brothers spoke with Yoseph. You see, they weren't bowing and trembling anymore, but talking with him, the way friends talk with each other. What do you think Binyamin might have said to his big brother? Take a guess. Yeah, maybe he said, "I missed you so, so much!" And the older brothers, what do you think they said? Maybe something like, "I am so, so sorry!" And what do you Yoseph replied to them? Yes, of course...He said, "I forgive you!" **(Point to deliverance emoji.)**

So, instead of blaming his brothers for doing something awful, Yoseph gave honor to Elohim for bringing about a way to keep them all alive. Today's story helps us to understand how loving our Elohim really is, doesn't it? He turned around Yoseph's years of suffering and used it all to make a way for something very, very good and life-giving! Now was Yoseph glad he had trusted Elohim through all those hard years? You bet he was!

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!

