

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.

Baby Wars

Shalom children! Today we find Ya'aqob still on his journey to his mother's hometown to meet his Uncle Laban. Remember the dream he had where Yahweh promised to be with him and to establish His covenant with him? **(Place ladder dream scene on board.)** It was the same covenant that Yahweh had made with Ya'aqob's father Yitshaq and his grandfather Abraham. **(Place Abraham and Yitshaq on board.)** Let's see what happens to Ya'aqob in this story. **(Remove characters from board and place Ya'aqob on board.)**

By now Ya'aqob had been traveling quite a while and figured he must be getting pretty close to his relatives. He looked out into a field and spotted a well there, surrounded by shepherds who were waiting to water their flocks. He asked them if they knew Laban **(place shepherds with sheep on board)**, and the men told him that indeed they did know him. In fact, they were waiting for his daughter Rahel, the shepherdess, to come with her father's flock so that they could remove the stone cover off the well and give their animals some water. **(Place well with cover on board.)** You see, children, back then no one was allowed to use someone's well without permission. And even if you got permission, you still had to wait for the owner to water his animals first. I think this is a very polite thing to do. Don't you?

Ya'aqob was still speaking to the men when Rahel showed up. **(Place Rahel on board.)** He was so happy and excited to see her that he gave her a kiss and told her that he was her father's relative, the son of Ribqah. He helped to take the stone off the well **(remove well with cover and Rahel and place Ya'aqob removing stone from well on board)** so that the sheep could drink. Then Rahel ran and told her father about Ya'aqob's arrival, so Laban came out to greet Ya'aqob as well. **(Place Laban on board.)** Uncle Laban let his nephew stay with him for a month, then asked him if he wanted to settle there and get paid to work for him.

Well, Ya'aqob really loved Rahel, and told Laban he would like to work for him 7 years if Rahel would be given to him as his wife. Now Laban had seen what a great worker his nephew was and thought this was a really good idea. **(Remove all characters from board.)**



After Ya'aqob fulfilled 7 years of working for his uncle, he asked for Rahel's hand in marriage. Laban and his men prepared the wedding celebration, but they didn't tell Ya'aqob about a certain ancient tradition, which was that the elder daughter must be married before the younger one. In those days, brides were so heavily veiled that their faces could not be seen during the wedding ceremony. **(Place Ya'aqob in wedding clothes and veiled woman on board.)** So Ya'aqob did not know that Le'ah was actually the bride under the veil. Imagine Ya'aqob's anger and disappointment when he brought his bride to the wedding tent, only to discover he had married Rahel's older sister, Le'ah, instead! **(Remove veiled woman and place Le'ah on board next to Ya'aqob in wedding clothes.)**

Ya'aqob was definitely mad about this. **(Place angry emoji on board.)** He confronted his uncle about being deceived in this way. **(Remove Ya'aqob in wedding clothes and Le'ah from board and place Ya'aqob and Laban together on board.)** Do you think that Ya'aqob remembered the time that he disguised himself and came to his father pretending to be Esau? Of course, he was only listening to his mother Ribqah, but even so, he did pretend to be someone he wasn't. As the saying goes, "What goes around, comes around." And so now Ya'aqob was stuck with a wife he didn't want. But knowing that he couldn't give her back to her dad, he made the best of it and said that he would agree to work 7 more years for Rahel. Boy, he must have been really in love with her to work for his uncle 7 more years. His uncle told Ya'aqob to give Le'ah one week with him, and then at the end of the week he would give him Rahel as well. But he still had to serve Laban 7 more years in order to pay for Rahel. So Ya'aqob married Rahel at the end of the week and ended up with both sisters. **(Remove Ya'aqob and place Ya'aqob in wedding clothes and Rahel on board and then remove all characters.)**

Now we are told that Le'ah wasn't as pretty as Rahel; so Ya'aqob probably didn't give her as much attention. But Yahweh took care of her by giving her children so that her husband would love her too. Le'ah gave Ya'aqob his first 4 sons - Re'uben, Shim'on, Lewi and Yehudah. **(Place Ya'aqob and Le'ah with 4 sons on board.)**

As you can imagine, when Rahel saw that her sister was having all these sweet little babies, she felt left out. She even got mad at Ya'aqob, as if it was his fault for not giving her babies too. Ya'aqob angrily reminded her that Yahweh is the one who gives the blessing of children. Then Rahel decided to take matters into her own hands. She came up with the idea to give her female servant Bilhah to her husband, because in those days if a wife's female servant bore the husband a child, that child would be born in the name of her mistress. I wonder if she thought about the story of Sarah, and how that ended up? In any case, Bilhah her maid servant had 2 boys, who were named Dan and Naphtali. **(Place Bilhah with 2 sons on board and move Ya'aqob next to them.)** This started wars between the 2 sisters - baby wars!

When Le'ah saw that she had gone a while without babies, she decided to follow her sister's lead and gave her female servant Zilpah to her husband as well. Ya'aqob's next 2 sons were born by Zilpah, who named them Gad and Asher **(place Zilpah with 2 sons on board and move Ya'aqob next to them)**. So the score is now Le'ah 6 and Rahel 2.



Even so, Le'ah kept praying to Yahweh (**place praying emoji on board**) to give her more children. He listened to her (**place listening emoji on board**) and gave her 2 more baby boys, who were named Yissaskar and Zebulun. Her next baby was Ya'aqob's first baby girl, and they called her Dinah (**place Le'ah with 2 sons and Dinah on board and move Ya'aqob next to them**). And now the score is Le'ah 9, while Rahel is still at 2.

But at last Yahweh allowed Rahel herself to give Ya'aqob a baby boy. They named their son Yoseph (**place Rahel with Yoseph on board and move Ya'aqob next to them**). So Ya'aqob now has 11 sons and 1 daughter. (**Remove all emojis from board and point to Ya'aqob and to all his family**). We already know that Rahel will have 1 more son named Binyamin, but we will learn more about his birth in another parsha.

In this story we can see Yahweh's faithfulness to His promises. He had told Yitshaq's grandfather Abraham that He was going to increase his seed as the stars of the heavens and sand on the seashore (**place stars in heavens and sand on seashore scene on board**). Ya'aqob started out as a man with many fears, but through his faithfulness and trust Yahweh chose him to be the father of the 12 tribes of Yisra'el which we will learn more about in another parsha.

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!

