

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.

So, We Meet Again!

Shalom children! Do you remember Ya'aqob? **(Place Ya'aqob on board.)** He is Yitshaq and Ribqah's son, twin brother to Esaw, and had to run away from home. A lot has happened with Ya'aqob since he left home and dedicated a place called Beyth El to Yahweh. Today we will continue the story of Ya'aqob and see what new events have happened since we last met.

Ya'aqob settled down at his Uncle Laban's house and married his 2 daughters, Le'ah and Rahel, and their maids, Bilhah and Zilpah. **(Place Ya'aqob's wives on board.)** He also had 11 boys and a daughter named Dinah. **(Place all the children on the board as you say, "Here they are.")** While there, Ya'aqob was also able to get a lot of animals and male and female servants. **(Place male and female servants, bulls, cows, sheep, rams, donkeys, foals and camels on board.)**

After many years, Yahweh spoke to Ya'aqob and told him it was time to go back to his hometown. Rahel and Le'ah agreed that it was time to move. They all gathered together and started on their long journey back to Kena'an. Ya'aqob knew that he would have to come close to where his brother Esaw lived. Do you remember what happened between Ya'aqob and Esaw? Ya'aqob had used tricks to get both the birthright and the blessing that belonged to Esaw. Esaw was so angry that he wanted to hurt Ya'aqob badly. Ya'aqob was afraid that Esaw would still be mad at him, so he sent gifts ahead of him to 'butter up' his brother. **(Place jewelry and gold and silver money bags on opposite side of board.)** He sent messengers on ahead of him, to let Esaw know he was coming. **(Move 2 male servants near bags.)** The messengers came back and told Ya'aqob that Esaw was coming to meet him with 400 men. **(Place Esaw's men on board.)** Ya'aqob was even more afraid now. He took all of the animals and people and divided them into 2 groups, so that if they were attacked, one group could get away. **(Divide all the animals and people into 2 groups on opposite sides of the board.)**



When everyone had gone to the different camps, Ya'aqob started praying to Yahweh. **(Place praying emoji on board.)** Ya'aqob pleaded to Yahweh to keep him safe since he was doing what Yahweh had asked of him. He also made sure he thanked Yahweh for everything He had already done for him. Then he sent animals to Esaw as peace gifts. **(Place Esaw on far side of board, then place animals towards Esaw's side of board.)** Ya'aqob then started walking toward Esaw with his family following him like this: first Bilhah and Zilpah with their children, then Le'ah with her children, and lastly Rahel with Yoseph. **(Remove Ya'aqob's wife and Ya'aqob's children from the board and place family line up as it is read.)** As Ya'aqob got closer and closer to Esaw, he bowed 7 times. Esaw saw Ya'aqob and ran to meet him.

He gave Ya'aqob a kiss and a hug, and they both cried because they had not seen each other in so long. **(Place Ya'aqob and Esaw closer together.)**

Ya'aqob explained to Esaw all that had happened to him and how much Yahweh had blessed him while he was living with their Uncle Laban. Esaw said he didn't want the gifts, but Ya'aqob finally convinced him to take them. Then Esaw went back towards his home. **(Remove Esaw and some of the animals from board.)** Ya'aqob and his family and animals walked as far as a place called Sukkoth. He put a house there for his family and himself and made booths, or sukkahs, for all the animals. **(Place house on board next to Ya'aqob's family and booth on board next to remaining animals.)** This is just one of the places Ya'aqob and his family stopped on their journey. The next place they went to was Shekem, which was in Kena'an. He bought a piece of land and placed his new tent there. **(Remove animals, house and booth and replace with tent.)** While there, he set up an altar to Yahweh and called it El Elohe Yisra'el, which means "Mighty one of Israel." **(Place altar on board next to Ya'aqob.)**

Yahweh told Ya'aqob that it was time for him to move, but his household had to get themselves cleaned and prepared. They had to get rid of their idols and earrings and go to the place where He first talked to him. Do you remember what that place was called? **(Allow children to answer.)** It was Beyth El, which means "House of Elohim." Remember that he placed a standing column **(a pillar)** there and anointed it with oil? **(Place standing column with oil on board.)** He also made a vow to Yahweh that when he returned to his father's house in peace **(shalom)** that he would give Yahweh a tenth of all that he had, and it would be Elohim's house. Yahweh kept His promise to bring Ya'aqob back to this place, and so Ya'aqob built an altar to Yahweh and called it El Beyth El. **(Place second altar on board and move Ya'aqob there.)**

After this, Yahweh spoke to Ya'aqob again and changed his name to Yisra'el. Yahweh said, "I am El Shaddai, and I want you to increase and become a nation." He set up a standing column and anointed it with oil and wine. **(Place standing column with oil and wine near Ya'aqob.)** Today's story had a much happier ending than last time, didn't it children?

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!