

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.

Ya'aqob Blesses His Boys

Shalom children! Today our story about Ya'aqob's life is coming to an end. But before we get to that, wasn't it exciting that Ya'aqob finally got to see his son Yoseph after all those years of him thinking that his favorite son was dead? And wasn't it so touching that Yoseph forgave his brothers for all the mean things they had done to him? **(Place brothers embracing scene on board.)** It sure is good that after both Ya'aqob and Yoseph went through so much, their story ends on a good note.

After Yoseph's family settled in their new home and the famine had passed, Ya'aqob became very old and was not able to see very well. One day he got very sick, and Yoseph was told about it. So Yoseph took his 2 sons, Menashsheh and Ephrayim, to see their grandfather. **(Remove brothers embracing scene from board and place Yoseph and his 2 sons on board.)**

Even though Ya'aqob was not feeling well, when he heard that Yoseph and his grandsons were coming, he got excited and sat up in his bed. **(Place Ya'aqob sitting up on his bed on board.)** When Yoseph and the boys arrived, Ya'aqob told them about how Yahweh had made promises to him like He had to his father Yitshaq and grandfather Abraham. He told them how Yahweh had promised the land of Kena'an to him and his descendants—that's all his children, his children's children, and so on. **(Place land of Kena'an scene on board.)** He also said that he would have so many children and grandchildren and great grandchildren that they would be a HUGE group of people. Man, talk about a big family reunion!

Ya'aqob also told Yoseph that he was going to adopt his 2 sons as his own. **(Move 2 sons near Ya'aqob.)** They would be counted as brothers to Re'uben and Shim'on and the other brothers. After that, any other children that Yoseph had would be his own children. Do you know what that means? Yoseph's sons were now his brothers too. That seems a little crazy and confusing, but that's what happened.

(Remove all characters from board.)

Then, as it was the custom of that time before the father died, he laid hands on his sons and gave them some words about what could be their future. First, before any of the other brothers got there, Ya'aqob blessed his 2 grandsons. Since he could not see, Yoseph brought the oldest son, Menashsheh, to Ya'aqob's right hand and his younger son, Ephrayim, to Ya'aqob's left hand.



Ya'aqob crossed his hands so that his right hand was on Ephrayim and his left hand was on Menashsheh. **(Place Ya'aqob blessing Yoseph's 2 sons on board.)** Yoseph was not happy about this. He tried to switch his dad's hands, but his dad told him no. He knew he was not doing it the way things were normally done. Ya'aqob said they would become great nations, but the youngest one would become greater than the oldest one.

(Remove all characters from board and then place Ya'aqob blessing his sons on board.)

Then Ya'aqob called all 12 of his sons to come and hear what would become of them. He said something different to each one, starting with the oldest one.

(Place Re'uben on board.) To Re'uben, he reminded him that he had been the beginning of his children, and he was his strength. He also said he was like boiling water. Hmm, interesting. Does that make him a hot head? I don't know. **(Place boiling water pot on board.)**

(Place Lewi and Shim'on on board.) To his next 2 sons, Lewi and Shim'on, he said they tended to like using their swords a little too much. They hurt others for no reason, and he did not like this about them. I don't think I would like that either. **(Place 2 swords on board.)**

(Place Yehudah on board.) Don't worry, it does get better with Yehudah. He compared him to a lion's cub and said that his offspring would be kings, and it would be so in the end. **(Place King Dawid on board.)**

(Place Zebulun on board.) Zebulun would be like a place that ships came to and would feel safe. **(Place scene of ships next to seashore on board.)**

(Place Yissaskar on board.) Yissaskar would be like a donkey. He didn't mind doing hard work. **(Place donkey on board.)**

(Place Dan on board.) Dan would be a good judge for his people. **(Place scales on board.)**

(Place Gad on board.) Gad would be able to conquer his enemies when they attacked. **(Place person chasing enemies on board.)**

(Place Asher on board.) Asher would have bread and delicacies that were the best kind. Mmm, I think I like this one the best. **(Place delicacies on board.)**

(Place Naphtali on board.) Naphtali would be free like a deer that had been let free. **(Place deer on board.)**

(Place Yoseph on board.) Yoseph was compared to a fruit-bearing tree by a fountain because he would get so many blessings, they would be more than the blessings he and his father ever had. **(Place bounty scene on board.)**

(Place Binyamin on board.) Binyamin was like a wolf that would catch what he was going to eat and eat some, but then he would share. **(Place wolf on board.)**

After giving them their blessings, Ya'aqob told them to promise to bury him where his grandfather was buried. **(Place cave of Makpelah on board.)** Then he laid back down on his bed and took one last breath.

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!