

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.

Terumah – Blueprints for the Mishkan Furnishings

Shalom children! Today we are going to start on a whole new journey with the children of Yisra'el. We will learn about the most important structure ever made, called the Set-apart Place. This is where Yahweh said He wanted to dwell with His people. Our story begins with Mosheh still at the top of Mount Sinai. **(Place Mosheh and mountain on board.)** We just learned about the Ten Commandments **(place tablets on board)** that Yahweh gave His people, but Yahweh has a lot more to tell Mosheh because he will be up there for 40 whole days.

Yahweh is sharing with Mosheh the pattern He wants for His Set-apart Place, including each measurement, all the rich materials, the furnishings, and the purpose for each item. It's like an architect who makes blueprints for the workers to follow, and an interior designer who designs special furniture for homes. **(Place blueprints and fancy chair on board.)** Yahweh is the master architect and designer of this project, and He is telling Mosheh the exact way He wants His Set-apart Place to look. Later on, Mosheh will carefully write down everything Yahweh told him up there and share it with the children of Yisra'el. **(Place scroll on board.)** We will get to that story in another parsha.

Hey, I just remembered someone else who got instructions and a pattern from Yahweh to build something! Do you remember a man named Noah? **(Place Noah on board.)** Yeah, Yahweh gave him instructions on how to build an ark. That ark was a large boat. **(Place ark on board.)** This time Yahweh is going to ask for a different kind of ark, one that would allow Him to be in the middle of His people. He told Mosheh, "I am going to tell you how I want my place to be built, what materials to use, and what I want in it."

Yahweh said, "I want you to use acacia wood." **(Place acacia wood on board.)** The other ark, Noah's ark, was made of a different wood called gopher wood. **(Place gopher wood on board.)** We know Yahweh is always very specific with what to use when He gives instructions.

He said, "Make me an ark that is shaped like a shoe box." **(Place shoe box on board.)** Actually, Yahweh didn't say 'shoe box,' because we know they didn't have stores back then, but just for a moment I want you to imagine that shape. **(Ask children what shape a shoe box is.)** But it was larger than a shoe box, more like the size of a treasure chest. **(Place treasure chest on board.)** Children, notice they are both rectangle.

(Remove all characters from board except for Mosheh and mountain.)



(Place ark of the Witness on board and point to each item as you read about it.)

Yahweh said He wanted all the wood to be covered in gold inside and outside of it. And He wanted it to have a molding. This is like the long, pretty strips that you can see sometimes in a house, right where the wall meets the ceiling. He wanted that on all sides of the ark. He also wanted them to make gold rings, big ones that you could slide a pole in. He wanted the rings by each corner of the ark, with the poles made out of the same wood and then covered in gold. Man, that was one shiny box! The poles would be used to carry the ark.

You remember how Noah's ark was used to carry Noah's family and the animals? Well, Yahweh wanted some things carried in this ark too. No, not animals - it was too small. But He wanted them to carry the tablets that He wrote on. **(Place tablets on board.)**

And of course, just like a shoe box, the ark needed a lid. So, Yahweh told them they were to make a lid called the lid of atonement, and He gave Mosheh the measurements so that the lid would fit the ark. But He didn't say to make it out of wood. He said, "Make it out of clean gold, to fit on top of the ark."

Yahweh also wanted 2 golden kerubim to go on top of the lid. Do you know what kerubim are? The Scriptures say that kerubim are heavenly beings, who worship Elohim at His throne. Now, I don't really know what they look like, but Yahweh told them to make the kerubim face each other, with their wings covering the lid and their faces turned downwards. He said that after it was built, Yahweh would talk to Mosheh from the top of the lid of atonement.

(Place table of showbread on board and point to each item as you read about it.)

Next, Yahweh told Mosheh how to build a special table, to be made of acacia wood and covered in gold. It was to hold the showbread which were 12 loaves of bread to represent the 12 tribes of Yisra'el. Now, the table was not as big as the ark, but it was just as tall. The table was also to have a molding, and a rim as well as a ring on each corner by the legs, to hold its own poles, just like the ark. They also needed to make ladles and jars and dishes and bowls. **(Place table of showbread utensils on board.)** Sounds like the stuff we use for dinner, only it wasn't for dinner.

(Place lampstand on board and point to each item as you read about it.)

Yahweh also wanted a lampstand with 7 branches. Many people have a menorah in their house to remind them of the lampstand. Do you have one in your home? This lampstand was to be made exactly the way Yahweh said, with almond flower-shaped oil holders, and knobs where the branches came out from it. It was to be made of pure gold, all of one piece! I can't even imagine how challenging that was for the person who got that job! There was a lot of detail in making that menorah. Yahweh also told Mosheh that He wanted the children of Yisra'el to bring olive oil to keep this lampstand lit all the time. **(Place olive oil on board.)**

(Place altar of incense on board and point to each item as you read about it.)

The last furniture piece that Yahweh gave Mosheh instruction for was the altar of incense. This piece was also shaped like a shoe box but standing up. **(Place shoe box on board and stand up.)** It was to be made of acacia wood and gold overlay on its top and its sides all around. Just like the ark it was to have 4 gold rings on its sides and 2 poles that went into the rings so that when the altar of incense had to be moved, it was easier to lift and carry. It was to have something different on it from the other furniture pieces - 4 horns on its 4 corners. Aharon was to make an offering on it once a year on the Day of Atonement. But we will learn about that another time.

Aharon was also to put incense on this altar every morning to start the day by offering it to Yahweh as a sweet smell to Him. It's like your favorite perfume, or a flower that you enjoy smelling. That's the way Yahweh felt about this special incense. Yahweh gave Mosheh the special recipe for them to follow to make this set-apart incense. **(Place incense on board.)**

No one was allowed to copy this scent. It was only to be used for the altar of incense. If someone broke the rules, they would have to leave the camp and never return. I hope no one ever broke that rule.

So children, now we have all the furniture pieces that Yahweh wanted built for His Set-apart Place. I wonder where these pieces will go. Do you think Yahweh will tell Mosheh about that? **(Let children answer.)** I do too!

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!

