

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.

Blueprints for the Mishkan Coverings and Structure

Shalom, children! Today we find Mosheh still at the top of Mount Sinai, receiving more instructions from Yahweh. **(Place Mosheh and mountain on board.)** Remember that in the last parsha, he was given the instructions for making the furniture pieces - the ark of the Witness, the table of showbread, the 7-branch lampstand as well as the altar of incense. **(Place mishkan furnishings on board.)**

We wondered where those furniture pieces were going to go, didn't we? I think now Yahweh is going to tell Mosheh just how to make the home where He wants those pieces to go.

Yahweh began with the way He wanted His Dwelling Place to be covered. The wilderness is a harsh place, so He chose 4 layers of different materials for the tent's roof. Today the curtains in our houses are made in factories on machines, but back then you had to be very talented at hand-weaving these fabrics on a wooden loom. **(Place loom on board.)**

For the first layer, Yahweh wanted beautiful curtains to be made by skilled weavers. **(Place first covering on board and point to items as you read about it.)** Panels must be made of woven linen, plus material in 3 royal colors: red, blue, and purple. **(Point to woman weaving on loom.)** Remember we talked about kerubim in our last parsha? Do you remember which piece of furniture they were on? **(Give children an opportunity to answer but give answer of lid of atonement if they can't remember.)** Well Yahweh wanted kerubim to also be embroidered onto the linen of the first curtain.

(Place second covering on board.) The next layer of the covering was to be made of goats' hair, which can be spun into yarn and woven just like wool. **(Place third covering on board.)** The third covering was made of rams' skins which had been dyed red. Have you ever snuggled up on a sheepskin rug? A ram's hide would be quite large, and probably woolly, too. Wool has a special oil in it called lanolin, which would be perfect for helping to keep out rain and dew. **(Place fourth covering on board.)** Finally, the fourth covering was placed on top. It would have to be long-lasting to protect the Dwelling Place from the harsh wilderness, so Yahweh chose to have it made of fine leather. We aren't told what type of animal was used to make it. Some people claim it was badger skins. Others say it was manatees also known as sea cows but it could have also been cowhide, which is very tough, and can be rubbed to a beautiful finish.



Now we know about the coverings on top, but what will they rest on? The sides, right? So, Yahweh told Mosheh to make the sides out of wooden boards, but not just any wooden boards. **(Place acacia board on board.)** They had to be cut from acacia wood, which is a small, gnarly tree that grew all over the wilderness. **(Place acacia tree on board.)** Acacia wood is so hard that it can't be attacked by insects. **(Place tenons and sockets on board and point to each piece as you read about it.)** Each board was designed with tenons along the bottom, so they could fit onto silver sockets to form a single wall. But just imagine; Yahweh wanted none of the acacia wood showing! No, it all had to be overlaid with thin sheets of pure gold. **(Remove acacia board and place gold board on board.)** He was also to make long bars from gold-covered acacia wood and place them inside the rings all along the walls, to make sure they would stand nice and firm. **(Place boards with rings and bars on board and point to items.)**

Yahweh wanted the Dwelling Place to have 20 boards on the north and south sides. **(Place north/south side on board. Have children count boards on north and south side.)** Notice that there were 5 bars on those walls, 4 shorter and 1 very long bar in the middle that passed through the length of the wall. On the west side which was the back of the Dwelling Place, Yahweh wanted 8 boards. **(Place west side on board. Explain that the end boards were 2 boards thick making a total of 8 boards.)**

Whether you were looking from outside or inside, you would see gleaming golden walls, set in silver sockets. **(Place mishkan frame on board.)**

Now, who remembers the first covering that went over the top? It was the one that was woven with the 3 royal colors and showing figures of kerubim, right? **(Point to first covering.)** Every time the priests lifted their eyes, they would see that ceiling made of colorful woven material showing those heavenly beings. And now Yahweh wanted 2 hanging veils for the Dwelling Place, made to look much like the first covering.

The inner veil would hang down from 4 tall columns of acacia wood covered with gold set in silver sockets. **(Place inner veil on board and point to items as you read about it.)** These columns were made in the same way as the boards - acacia wood covered with pure gold. The veil was to be of fine, woven linen, in the 3 royal colors: red, blue and purple. Can you guess what was embroidered on this veil? If you said kerubim, you're right! The beautiful inner veil was meant to form a divider to separate the Set-apart Place from the Most Set-apart Place.

Once a year the high priest would also be allowed in the Most Set-apart Place, on the Day of Atonement. The Most Set-apart Place was to be perfectly square, and behind its veil they were to place the ark of the Witness, the gold-covered box with its lid of atonement that was crafted with 2 golden kerubim. **(Place ark of the Witness on board.)** Inside the ark of the Witness, Mosheh was to place the 2 stone tablets that Yahweh gave him on the mountain, of the agreement He had made with His people Yisra'el. **(Place tablets on board.)**



Now, there was an outer veil, too, for covering the entrance to the Dwelling Place. **(Place outer veil on board.)** This one was also hung on tall columns - 5 columns of acacia wood covered with gold set in bronze sockets. **(Point to each item.)** Again, it was made of fine woven linen, in the royal colors of red, blue and purple, except there were no kerubim on this veil.

(Remove all characters from board. Place mishkan on board.)

Even though they haven't put it all together yet, we can take a look at how beautiful it will be. **(Point to mishkan.)**

Can you imagine all the excitement of making all these special pieces for Yahweh's Dwelling Place? What a wonderful thing, to know that the Mighty One of Yisra'el was going to be living right there with His people!

Mosheh hasn't received all the blueprints yet. Yahweh will tell him about a special fence to go around His Dwelling Place. But that will have to wait until next time.

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!

