

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 Appointing the Priesthood

Shalom, children! Well, we now know just how Yahweh wanted Mosheh to make His special Dwelling Place, so He could live among them. What a splendid tent that is going to be! Now Mosheh was about to hear exactly how Yahweh wanted His priests to be set apart in a special ceremony, so that everyone could clearly see that these men were going to spend their whole lives serving Him at His Dwelling Place. Yahweh promised that His priests would be chosen from the family of Aharon forever - from his sons, grandsons and his great-grandsons, and on and on. **(Place Aharon and 4 sons on board.)**

Now, do you think this special ceremony might include a parade, or flags or handshakes and long speeches? No, nothing like that. First, Mosheh must bring to the Tent of Meeting a young bull and 2 rams. **(Place Mosheh, young bull and 2 rams on board.)** They couldn't have a single scratch, or a scab, or a nicked ear, or a crooked leg - not even a runny nose. No, they had to be absolutely perfect. Yahweh also told Mosheh to bring a single basket containing unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil. **(Place basket with unleavened breads on board.)** Then Aharon and his sons were to come forward to be washed with water and get all cleaned up. **(Place washing scene on board.)**

When Aharon was ready, Mosheh was to dress up his brother in the rich garments of the High Priest. Aharon had to stand very still and let his brother put everything on, in just the order that Yahweh said. On went the long, linen shirt **(place long shirt on board)**, then the blue robe of the shoulder garment **(place robe on board)**. Over that went the shoulder garment itself with the embroidered band. **(Place ephod on board.)** On top of these layers went the breastplate with its 12 gemstones - one for each tribe. **(Place breastplate on board.)**

Lastly, on Aharon's head would go the turban **(place turban on board)**, and finally a special gold plate would be attached to the turban **(place gold plate on board)**. It had Hebrew letters etched on it that said, "Kadosh L'Yahweh" which means "Set-apart to Yahweh." **(Point to wording.)** This meant that the High Priest would live his whole life serving Yahweh in the tabernacle and making sure that all the other priests served Him correctly, without any careless mistakes! **(Place Mosheh putting turban on Aharon on board.)** Can you imagine being there to witness this beautiful event!

(Remove all characters from board and place Aharon as High Priest on board.)



Now that Aharon is in his set-apart garments Mosheh was to dress Aharon's 4 sons with their long linen shirts, sashes and turbans on their heads. Of course they also had those linen trousers on underneath. I'm sure they put those on themselves. **(Place 4 sons with set-apart garments on board.)** These special garments were to be worn in the Tent of Meeting during the whole 7 days of the ceremony. Hmm...7 days? What other awesome thing took 7 days to finish? That's right - Yahweh's 7 Days of Creation! Maybe He wanted the people to understand that He was creating a whole new thing, just as He did in the beginning. Yisra'el would be a new, set-apart nation. The Creator of everything would be right there with them, showing them the only true way to live!

When Aharon and his sons were all dressed, what would come next? Well, Aharon and his sons would have to lay their hands on that perfect bull and slay it in front of the Tent of Meeting as a special offering to Yahweh. Yahweh had detailed instructions for every part of each animal - what to do with their blood, their fat and their flesh and skin. Some of the bull's blood would be put on the horns of the altar, then the rest of it was to be poured out beside the base of the altar. **(Place bull near altar on board.)** By this time, the fire on the altar would be nice and hot; they were to burn the bull's fat on it for a sin offering. I'm sure the air smelled like the best steak house in town! **(Place animal parts burning on altar on board.)** But nobody was going to get to eat any of the bull; it was completely given to Yahweh as a burnt offering. The rest of the bull was carried outside the camp and burned there on a big campfire. **(Place altar outside camp on board.)**

Then the first ram's blood was to be sprinkled all around the altar, and it, too, would be a complete burnt offering, like the bull. **(Place 1st ram near altar on board.)** Now, ram #2 was different, because that would be the ram of ordination. Have you ever had roasted leg of lamb? It's really yummy, isn't it? But the priests would not get a single taste until Yahweh was finished setting them apart. Mosheh was to put some of the 2nd ram's blood on the tip of the priests' right ears, on the thumb of their right hand, and on the big toe of their right foot. What strange places to put the blood! **(Place scene with blood on body parts on board.)** But wait - what do ears, hands and feet do? Ears listen, don't they? Yahweh wanted them to listen to Him and to do what He told them to do. Hands work, don't they? Yahweh wanted them to work for Him serving in the tabernacle and for the children of Yisra'el when they brought all their offerings. And lastly, feet move, don't they? Yahweh wanted them to represent Him everywhere they went! Isn't it so loving of Yahweh to think of everything? **(Place caring emoji on board.)**

Now that 2nd ram's blood was also sprinkled on the bronze altar just like the first ram. **(Place 2nd ram near altar on board.)** But unlike the 1st ram, Aharon and his sons got to eat some of that ram. We'll talk about that in a little bit.

And what about the basket of unleavened breads? Aharon and his sons would lift up the breads and the fat, the thigh and the kidneys to Yahweh as a wave offering. **(Place Aharon and sons wave offering scene on board.)** Then all of it would be put on the bronze altar and burned up as a burnt offering to Yahweh. **(Place animal parts and unleavened bread burnt offering on board.)**

(Remove all characters from board.)



Remember how I said that Aharon and his sons got to eat some of the 2nd ram. Well before they got to do that, Mosheh was to take the breast from the ram of ordination and make a wave offering to Yahweh. **(Place Mosheh wave offering scene on board.)** Next, Mosheh was to give the breast and thigh of the ram of ordination to Aharon and his sons as their portion to eat. **(Place Aharon and sons eating on board.)** And by that time, I bet Aharon and his boys could hear their stomachs rumbling. Mmm, good! Yahweh also told them that they could eat the bread in the basket. **(Point to bread.)** From now on, whenever the Yisra'elites brought a ram for their peace offering, Aharon and his sons the priests would get these portions to eat - it was a law forever. No one but the priests would be allowed to eat it. If they couldn't finish all the meat, it must be burned on the altar the next morning. **(Place leftovers burning on altar on board.)**

For those 7 days, Yahweh wanted the altar to be cleansed and anointed, to set it apart each new day. A perfect bull had to be offered each day, burnt completely in the same way as before. **(Place 7 day offering scene on board.)** And each day, Aharon and his sons had to be ordained all over again, too. **(Place 7 day anointing scene on board.)** And every day Mosheh was to put special anointing oil on the Tent of Meeting, the altar, and on Aharon and his sons, just as before, to show that they were set apart for Yahweh's service. **(Place anointing oil on board.)** Every single piece of furniture inside the Dwelling Place had to be anointed, too - even all the utensils! **(Place furniture pieces with utensils scene on board.)** In the courtyard outside the Set-apart Place, Mosheh was to anoint the altar and all its utensils, and also the wash basin and its stand. **(Place courtyard furniture with utensils scene on board.)** Finally, he must anoint Aharon and his sons. This wasn't just a little dab of oil on the forehead, either. Mosheh was to pour it all over the head of each priest, and then sprinkle it on each one and on his garments, too, because they were set apart for Yahweh alone. **(Place Mosheh pouring oil on Aharon on board.)**

Now, this anointing oil was not just the kind your mom uses for cooking. No, Yahweh had His own recipe. He wanted 4 precious spices to be added to the pure olive oil: myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet-smelling cane and cassia, too. **(Place spices on board.)** Oh, it must have smelled heavenly! This fragrant anointing oil was only for Yahweh's use. He commanded that it was NOT to be poured out on any man of the congregation, or to be made for any other purpose than to set things apart to Yahweh. It was not to be found anywhere else in the camp except the Dwelling Place. And it most certainly was NOT to be put on a stranger - someone who wasn't a priest. Maybe someone might be tempted to copy this wonderful recipe and sniff it, but they'd better not! The penalty for any of this was to be cut off from their people and stranded all alone in the harsh wilderness. Ooh... No thank you!

Day after day, the people would be coming to watch the priests of Yahweh be ordained. If you were there, would you be watching to see how Yahweh would show up to live in the beautiful Tent that everyone had made for Him? Yeah, so would I! When Yahweh had finished all these instructions to Mosheh, He spoke again His promise that He would dwell in their midst and be their Elohim, and that they would know that He was the one Mighty One who had brought them out of slavery from the land of Mitsrayim. He wanted them to believe that they were His special treasure. He wanted to be their special treasure, too, because no other nation on earth would have the Creator of all living among them! **(Place treasure chest with precious gems and stones on board.)**

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!

