

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 Courtyard

Shalom, children! Our last story was all about how Yahweh commanded a special ceremony that would mark His priests as set-apart for serving Him in the Dwelling Place. But before that can be done, Mosheh must receive instructions for building the courtyard, a larger area surrounding the Dwelling Place. **(Place courtyard on board.)** Here the Yisra'elites will bring their offerings of clean animals and grains mixed with oil, so that the priests and Lewites can cook them in a very special way, just as Yahweh commanded.

Just imagine how very beautiful it will be inside the Set-apart Place! But unless you were a priest, you would never see it, because it was to be covered up and only the priests will be allowed to go in there. But the courtyard will be just outside the Dwelling Place, and it's marked off by fine linen screens all around it. **(Place screen on board.)** Yahweh told Mosheh exactly how long and how wide each screen had to be, and exactly how many screens were to be set up on each side. That wall of screens around the Dwelling Place is going to be too tall for us to see inside, but whenever we bring an offering made by fire, we will be invited into the courtyard with our animal to be offered, and will be able to see just how busy those priests had to be! **(Place priest on board.)**

Has anyone ever been camping in a tent that was held down with cords and tent pegs? **(Place tent with cords and pegs on board.)** Yahweh wants the linen screens around the courtyard to be anchored down the same way. How handsome these screens will be! Mosheh was told to have them made from finely woven linen and fastened to bronze columns by special bands and hooks made of silver. **(Place column with cord and peg on board.)** Then the columns are to be fixed to the ground by bronze pegs connected to cords that reach to the top of the columns. **(Point to cord and peg on board.)** Who remembers what kind of metal bronze is? That's right - it's copper and tin melted together. Those pegs had to be very strong. Yahweh did not want His Dwelling Place blowing all over the wilderness!

Now on the east end of the Dwelling Place, Mosheh was to leave space for a beautiful gate, where the people could enter with their offerings. **(Place east gate on board.)** It must also be woven of linen, with beautiful colors of blue, purple and scarlet on it. Wow, I'm sure none of us has ever camped in a tent like that!



Now, let's talk about how Yahweh intended to get His offerings roasted in fire. Near to the gate of the courtyard, He told Mosheh to build a big altar to hold the fire for cooking. **(Place bronze altar on board.)** Have you ever been to a barbecue, where your parents cooked chicken, or maybe hamburgers and hot dogs on a grill? **(Place grill on board.)** Well, Yahweh knew they would need a very big grill in that courtyard, because all the people would be bringing their lambs, cattle and goats to be offered to Him by fire. As we saw last week, some of the offerings must be burned completely and not eaten, in obedience to Yahweh. And just because this altar was to be placed outside the Set-apart Place, that didn't mean that Yahweh was any less careful about its measurements. Like everything else, this big grill would have to be made exactly the size Yahweh ordered, and out of His chosen materials. He ordered it to be made from planks of acacia wood, in the shape of a perfect square. **(Place acacia wood board on board.)** Then the planks would have to be completely covered in bronze. **(Place bronze board on board.)**

Wow, this bronze altar would be something to look at, won't it? But what the people won't be able to see is that it's going to be hollow inside, with a grating across the middle that Yahweh wants to be there so it can catch dripping animal fat and ashes. **(Point to grating.)** He also told Mosheh to make all kinds of long utensils out of bronze, so no one would burn their hands or get all sooty when they handled the fire, the ashes and the meat. **(Place utensils on board.)** Our Elohim thinks of everything, doesn't He?

Now, the altar for burnt offerings wasn't the only thing in the courtyard. Yahweh also wanted a big, round washbasin, full of gallons and gallons of water. Can anyone guess what this will be made of? If you guessed bronze, you're right! And this huge bowl was to sit on top of a bronze stand, so the priests could use it for washing. **(Place bronze basin on stand on board.)** In fact, they will not be allowed to make any offerings or to do any service in the Dwelling Place until they have washed both their hands and their feet in it. If they come near the Dwelling Place to serve there or come to the altar to make any animal sacrifices, they'd better be sure they have washed both their hands and their feet in it. If they got lazy and forgot, Yahweh said they must die!

You see, children, it's so important to do exactly as Yahweh commands us. Our hands represent what we do, and our feet represent our walk with Him. We want to be careful that our deeds are clean and pleasing to Him. The more we learn about His Dwelling Place, the more excited we will be about walking with Him in careful obedience, so we can each become a beautiful place for Him to live in.

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!

