

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.

Wise Hearted Worker Bees

Shalom, children! Here we are at the very end of the book of Exodus. Mosheh is going over all the wonderful things Yahweh has told him about how to make His Dwelling Place. Who remembers how Mosheh got all the materials to make Yahweh's Tent of Meeting? Yes, Yahweh told him to ask the people to give whatever their hearts wanted to give. **(Place contribution scene on board.)** Have you ever felt really happy after you gave something really nice to someone you love? Well, many of the people of Yisra'el must have been jumping for joy, because the Bible tells us that they gave Him everything He needed for His house. Do you think maybe they were excited that Yahweh was going to come and live right there with them? In a moment we'll see just how much fun they had.

Of course, Yahweh wanted many different things to build His special Place. Let's see how many we can remember. Hmm... Gold and silver, yes, and bronze, too! **(Place gold, silver and bronze on board.)** It all must have been very heavy to carry. The women helped too, by bringing piles and piles of their jewelry - rings and earrings, nose rings and necklaces. **(Place jewelry pile on board.)**

What else? How about the coverings that went over the top? There was fine linen, **(place linen roll on board)** and material in 3 royal colors. Can anyone tell me what they were? Yes, there was red, blue and purple material, to decorate the fine linen for those gorgeous curtains, and for the veils, too. **(Place 3 fabric rolls on board.)** What about coverings that came from animals, like goats' hair, and rams' skins dyed red, and fine, sturdy leather? **(Place 3 coverings on board.)**

Let's go on. What kind of wood did Yahweh ask for, to build the planks for the walls, and all the furniture? **(Place acacia wood on board.)** It begins with an 'A'. Yes, very good! It was acacia wood, taken from small trees that grew all over the wilderness. **(Place acacia tree on board.)** And of course, Yahweh wanted all the wooden items to be overlaid with gold, and some with bronze. **(Place gold and bronze boards on board.)**

Another thing that was important to Him was pure olive oil, to keep the lampstand burning, and all kinds of spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense that was to be burned on the altar inside the Set-apart Place. **(Place spices on board.)** Oh, I almost forgot the gemstones. **(Place gemstones on board.)** These were to be set in the High Priest's shoulder garments and breastplate. **(Place breastplate and shoulder garment on board.)**



Jewels are so beautiful, aren't they? And these must have been big, shiny, sparkly ones, don't you think? The rulers among the people brought most of those, because gems are rare and expensive. **(Place gem scene on board.)**

Let's look at what they used the gold, silver and bronze metals for. The boards of the Dwelling Place were overlaid with gold **(place Dwelling Place frame on board)**, as well as the ark of the Witness, the table of showbread and the altar of incense. Did you know that the 7-branch lampstand, the lid of atonement, and its kerubim, was solid gold? **(Place ark, menorah, table and incense altar on board.)** The utensils for the lampstand and the table of showbread were also made from gold. **(Place utensils on board.)** Silver was used to make the hooks and bands on the columns in the courtyard as well as the sockets of silver that the boards rested on. **(Place column on board and point to silver parts on it as well as the Dwelling Place sockets.)** Perhaps the heaviest pile of metals was the bronze pile. The big wash basin and its stand were solid bronze, and the altar for burnt offerings was also overlaid with bronze, **(place bronze altar and wash basin on board)** as well as all the utensils for the altar. **(Place bronze utensils on board.)** Children, did you know that the basin was made from bronze mirrors? **(Place bronze mirror on board.)** There were sockets of bronze, too on the columns, and just think of all the bronze tent pegs they needed to hold down the Dwelling Place and the large courtyard all around it! **(Place bronze tent peg on board.)**

Now, let's meet 2 amazing men who had a huge part in making all this. Their names are Betsal'el and Oholiab, and they were appointed to oversee all the work. **(Place Betsal'el and Oholiab on board.)** When the hearts of the people of Yisra'el were moved to bring their materials for the Tent, do you think they dumped them all at Mosheh's feet? No way! He was far too busy listening to Yahweh to handle all that! It was Betsal'el and Oholiab who collected the stuff to make the Set-apart Place. But you see, they had a small problem. The people were having so much fun giving their precious things to Yahweh that Betsal'el and Oholiab had to come and beg Mosheh to get the people to stop, because they had more piles of stuff than they knew what to do with - more than enough to complete the work! Mosheh had to tell the people to stop bringing anymore contributions for the Set-apart Place. They had too much already! **(Place Mosheh telling people to stop scene on board.)**

Now, do you think that these 2 overseers did all the work themselves? I don't think so! And those who wanted to help all came to work. The Scriptures say that Yahweh had given loads of talent and skill to many of the children of Yisra'el, to make beautiful things and that some of the people were 'wise-hearted.' That means they had exactly the kind of talents needed to build and decorate His Dwelling Place. The Scriptures also tell us that 'wise-hearted' women spun yarn. **(Place woman spinning yarn on board.)** What do you think that was used for?

Are any of you good at drawing and coloring and making crafts? How about figuring things out and putting things together, like Legos? **(Place Lego blocks on board.)** Some of you may like to sing or play an instrument, or do sports. **(Place singer on board.)** Building stuff with your hands might not be your thing. You see, each of us has special abilities that we can give to Yahweh.



Yahweh Himself picked our friends Betsal'el and Oholiab to be over this busy bunch of worker bees! You can hardly imagine how much talent Yahweh had given these 2 men. They had wisdom and understanding in all the skills, and were able to do anything and everything that was needed for the Dwelling Place. Do you ever watch someone do something really cool and wish you could do it, too? Well, because there was so much to do, Betsal'el and Oholiab had to be good at teaching others to make the same cool stuff they could make. Betsal'el was a designer of anything beautiful. He could design using metals, and he could cut fine gemstones, do carpentry and carve wood. **(Remove Betsal'el and place Betsal'el working with gold and wood on board.)** Oholiab was also an excellent designer, and especially good at weaving and embroidering. He could set gemstones and then use sharp tools to write neatly on them. He could also do this with metals, and make everything look really fancy. **(Remove Oholiab and place Oholiab working with loom and engraving gems on board.)**

These 2 guys and their helpers made all the furniture: the ark of the Witness, with its golden lid of atonement and the kerubim, and its rings and poles. **(Point to the ark on board.)** For the Set-apart Place, they made the table for the showbread, the lampstand and the altar of incense. **(Point to utensils.)** They made the rings and poles to carry them, too, and also all their utensils. **(Place utensils on board.)** They made the courtyard and its screens, along with the altar of burnt offering, the bronze basin and the stand it was set upon, plus all their utensils. **(Place courtyard scene on board.)**

Is your head swimming yet from thinking about all these parts of the Dwelling Place? Yahweh wants us to know that each part is important. Oh, one more thing - they made that breath-taking linen suit for the high priest, with its robe, its turban, its breastplate and shoulder pieces set with gemstones. We can only imagine exactly how amazing it looked - Aharon's one-of-a-kind dress-up suit, all for the pleasure of Yahweh!

(Place Aharon in priestly garments on board.)

Yahweh was very happy with the children of Yisra'el because they did everything that Yahweh had commanded Mosheh to do. Because of all the gifts the people had brought to Him, and the work they had done, His Dwelling Place was all finished - every single piece! It was exactly the way He had shown to Mosheh. Yahweh's heart was so filled with love and joy that He had Mosheh speak a special blessing over His people. **(Place Yisra'elite family on board.)**

Children, if we give Yahweh our best with a generous heart just like the children of Yisra'el did in their contributions and the work of their hands, He will give us a bigger blessing than the temporary Dwelling Place - we will get to live in His forever Kingdom with Him. Doesn't that sound wonderful? **(Allow children to answer.)**

Now that the children of Yisra'el have all the pieces ready to make the Dwelling Place, it's time for them to put it all together. We'll have to wait and find out about that another 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!

