

# 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.

### Raising Up the Dwelling Place

Shalom, children! Well, it's hard to believe a whole year has gone by since the children of Yisra'el said goodbye to Mitsrayim. It's now the beginning of their second year of freedom - Month #1, Day #1. For the past year, everyone has been working like busy bees, making all the parts of Yahweh's Dwelling Place, exactly as He told Mosheh to make it. **(Place Mosheh on board.)** How will it all come together? Have you ever had a project to do, and you just didn't know where to start? Well, Yahweh who is not only a master architect, but a master builder thought of that. Let's watch as He tells Mosheh how to raise up His Dwelling Place, one step at a time. It will be perfect.

Now, Yahweh's house had different areas in it, just like your house. You have a kitchen for eating and cooking, and a living room with comfy places to sit, and maybe even a yard for throwing frisbees and a lot of other fun things. The Dwelling Place of Yahweh had three areas, where He wanted special things done that would honor Him as Elohim.

The first area was the Most Set-apart Place. Only one piece of furniture would go in there; can you remember what it was? **(Let children answer.)** Yes, the ark of the Witness, with its solid gold cover that had the kerubim on it. **(Place ark of the Witness on board and point to kerubim.)** But first, Mosheh had to get the ark all ready. Inside the golden box he placed the Witness - the tablets that Yahweh wrote on. **(Place tablets on board.)** Then he slid its carrying poles through the rings, and topped it off with the golden lid of atonement. **(Point to items.)** It was like a throne for the Mighty One of Yisra'el. So Mosheh was told to set up the ark first, and to hide it behind the purple, blue and scarlet inner veil that had the kerubim on it. **(Place inner veil in front of the ark on board.)** On the other side of the veil was the second area, the Set-apart Place. Mosheh had to set up three pieces of furniture there. In the center, just on the other side of the veil hiding the ark, he was to set the golden altar of incense and its utensils. **(Place altar of incense and utensils in front of inner veil on board.)** On the north side, he was to bring in the table and arrange its showbread, dishes and utensils. **(Place table and utensils to the right of the altar of incense on board.)**

Then he was to set up the golden lampstand on the south side and to light its seven lamps and its utensils. **(Place lampstand, utensils and olive oil to the left of the altar of incense on board.)** In front of these furniture pieces was the purple, blue and scarlet outer veil. **(Place outer veil in front of furniture pieces on board.)**



The third area would be the courtyard all around the outside the Tent of Meeting. **(Place empty courtyard on board.)** That's where Mosheh was told to set the bronze wash basin, right between the Tent and the altar where the offerings were made. And what was Mosheh supposed to put in the basin? Yup, water. You are all so smart today! We all know it's pretty hard to wash up without water! **(Place wash basin on board.)** Our last furniture piece along with its utensils was the bronze altar where the sacrifices were to be done. **(Place bronze altar and utensils on board.)**

Next, Yahweh told Mosheh to anoint everything with Yahweh's wonderful-smelling anointing oil, to mark each piece as set apart only for the service of Yahweh. **(Place anointing oil on board. Point to all items as you read about them.)** He had to walk all around the inside of the Dwelling Place and put the oil on every piece of furniture and every utensil, and also on the Tent itself. Then he must go outside and put the anointing oil on the basin as well as the bronze altar for burnt offerings and on all its utensils. That must have been a pretty big jar of oil he was carrying around!

Finally, he was to set apart Aharon and his sons to be priests to Yahweh. Aharon the High Priest would go first. Mosheh was to wash him clean and put the beautiful high priestly garments on him. Then he must grab that jar of oil and pour a bunch of it all over Aharon's head. **(Remove Mosheh from board and place Mosheh anointing priests on board. Point to Aharon.)** It would be the same for Aharon's four sons. They were to be washed, dressed in their long shirts and turbans, and have their heads doused with the special oil, too. **(Point to sons on board.)** Yahweh said that the priesthood would be theirs forever. In other words, the priests of Yisra'el would always come from Aharon's family. His sons would be priests, and then his grandsons, his great-grandsons, his great-great grandsons, and on and on. Aharon and his sons must have felt very honored when they heard that.

**(Remove all characters from board.)**

Now, I think this Dwelling Place must have been Yahweh's most important, special, favorite building that was ever, ever made on earth. Over and over, the Scriptures talk about every detail that went into making it, and how Mosheh did it all exactly the way Yahweh said. Just hang with me for a minute while we watch Mosheh actually raise up the whole Dwelling Place, the way Yahweh showed him on the mountain. **(Place Mosheh on board.)** When it's all put together, we'll get to see something absolutely amazing. Okay, are you all listening?

Remember, it was now the second year since they came out of Mitsrayim - Month #1, Day #1 - the day Yahweh appointed for the Dwelling Place to be finished. To begin, Mosheh set up its gold-covered boards, with the bars to keep them standing straight. The columns he put where they could hold up the curtains and veils. **(Place Dwelling Place frame on board.)** The tent was spread over that, and its four coverings went over the top. **(Place Dwelling Place on board.)**

**(Remove Dwelling Place frame and place Dwelling Place cut-out on board.)**

And what was the first piece of furniture to go inside? That's right - the ark of the Witness. **(Point to ark of Witness on board.)** Since it was the most important piece, it was put in the Most Set-apart Place. He had the ark carried inside the Most Set-apart Place, and then he hung the beautiful inner veil, to separate that area from everything else. **(Point to inner veil on board.)**



On the other side of that veil, in the Set-apart Place, he set the golden altar in the center and burned sweet incense on it. **(Point to altar of incense on board.)** Mmm, what a fabulous fragrance! Then in came the lampstand on the north side. **(Point to 7-branch lampstand on board.)** What joy Mosheh must have felt as he lit its seven lamps and admired the beauty of Yahweh's home! Finally, he put the table, with the showbread arranged on it. **(Point to table of showbread on board.)** He hung the outer veil over the entryway, then went outside. **(Point to outer veil on board.)**

**(Remove Dwelling Place cut-out and place Dwelling Place with courtyard on board.)**

Outside of the Tent of Meeting, he placed the bronze basin on its stand and filled it with water. **(Point to bronze basin on board.)** Yahweh had commanded that every time the priests came to the Tent of Meeting, or to the altar of burnt offering, they must first wash their hands and feet with the water in the bronze basin. Beyond that, he set up the bronze altar, in line with the Tent door, and got right to work offering the burnt offering and the grain offering. **(Point to bronze altar on board.)** Now the whole area was filled with smells that pleased Yahweh!

To finish, Mosheh put up the columns and screens for the courtyard, all around the altar area and the Tent of Meeting. **(Point to columns and screens on board.)** Mosheh followed the exact pattern that Yahweh showed him. Now the work was all done, but what was missing? Why, the Presence of Yahweh! Suddenly, the people gasped and pointed. There over the Dwelling Place was a bright cloud! It billowed out until it covered the Tent of Meeting and flooded the whole Dwelling Place with Yahweh's brilliant splendor. It was so awesome that Mosheh couldn't even go in there! Later, that bright cloud became a tall pillar, stretching way up into the sky. **(Place pillar of cloud over Dwelling Place on board.)**

When it got dark, do you think they could still see it? Yeah, you bet they could, because each night it turned into a blazing column of fire. **(Remove pillar of cloud and place pillar of fire over Dwelling Place on board.)** Wow!

Maybe only the priests would ever see inside the Tent of Meeting, but the cloud of Yahweh's Presence could be seen 24/7, by every single Yisra'elite. **(Place family on board.)** Whenever the cloud lifted up from the Dwelling Place, that was Yahweh's sign for them to pack up and move on. But where? Well, they just had to follow the cloud until it stopped somewhere! Then they would have to set up the Dwelling Place all over again, and put up all their own tents around it. Imagine poking your head out of your tent each morning, and checking to see... **(Place tent scene on board.)** Well, what would you look for? The cloud, of course! Had it lifted up? Would you all be doing a big pack job and a long march, or would you be hanging out munching manna for another day? You just never knew. The Scriptures say we don't know what a day might bring. Yahweh is in control, and we must follow and obey in every detail, just as Mosheh did.

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!

