

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.

3 Voluntary offerings – Instructions to the OFFEROR

Shalom children! In the book of Shemot, we were introduced to a man named Mosheh. **(Place Mosheh on board.)** We learned how he was protected by his mom from Pharaoh's hand and how he built such a relationship with Yahweh that he got to talk to Him as if they were friends. What an amazing thing!

Yahweh gave Mosheh the job of sharing with the people what Yahweh wanted him to say, and to teach them and guide them on the things Yahweh wanted them to do. **(Place group of people on board.)** As we move to the next book in the Torah, called Vayikra, we are going to learn about some of those things.

Yahweh told Mosheh to teach the children of Yisra'el about offerings. The first 3 that He told Mosheh about were called the voluntary offerings. This offering was given to Yahweh because you wanted to. Who here likes to receive presents? Raise your hand! **(Place presents on board.)** A voluntary offering is like giving an unexpected present to someone just because you care for them and want to show them that you appreciate them. I'm sure that receiving them made Him smile. **(Place happy emoji on board.)**

The first offering that we will learn about is called the Burnt Offering. It is called that because the animal being offered was totally burned up. The Burnt Offering must be male and perfect. It could be a bull, a ram or a goat. **(Place male animals on board.)** If you couldn't afford to bring one of those, Yahweh said you could bring turtledoves or pigeons. **(Place birds on board.)** No one got to eat this offering. It was given totally to Yahweh.

The person who brought the Burnt Offering always took it to the door of the Tent of Meeting. **(Place offeror bringing ram on board.)** He would put his hand on the head of the offering and kill it. **(Place offeror with hands on ram on board.)** Then he would give it to the priest. **(Point to priest.)** We will learn a lot more about the priest's job next week, but one of the jobs he had was to take the animal and place it on the altar. And there it would stay over the fire all night, until only its ashes were left. **(Place burnt up offering on board.)**

In His Word, Yahweh tells us that when He received these offerings as a person's freely given contribution, it smelled wonderful to Him. It was like a sweet fragrance that He could smell both with His nose and with His heart! Do you remember the time when the Yisra'elites brought all those contributions for building the Tabernacle? They gave so much that Mosheh had to tell them to stop. **(Place contributions scene on board.)** I'm sure that made Yahweh smile. **(Point to happy emoji.)**



(Remove all characters from board.)

Another voluntary offering that Mosheh taught the people about was called the Peace Offering. This offering was given to Yahweh to thank Him for all the goodness He had shown you, or perhaps for a vow or promise that you made to Yahweh. The Peace Offering was similar to the Burnt Offering. The person bringing the offering would bring it to the door of the Tent of Meeting just like the Burnt Offering. **(Place offeror bringing cow on board.)** Children, did you notice something different about this offering? Yes, this offering is a female. One big difference was that you could bring either a male or a female animal for this offering.

(Place male and female animals on board and point to them as you read.) It could be a bull or a cow, a billy goat or a nanny goat, a ram or a ewe sheep. Just like the Burnt Offering he would place his hand on the head of his offering and then kill it. The priests would then do their duty. **(Point to priest.)** Again, we will learn more about their job next week when we look at the duties of the priests.

(Remove all characters from board.)

The 3rd voluntary offering we are going to learn about was not of animals, but of grain from their fields. Children, do you know what grain is? Well, there are many types of grain, like wheat and barley. **(Place wheat and barley grain stalks on board.)** People take them and grind the little seeds into flour. The flour is what is used to make cakes, cookies, and bread. **(Place baked goods on board.)** Yummy! Yahweh said that the grain offering could be cooked or uncooked. **(Place cooked unleavened breads and uncooked lump on board.)**

The uncooked grain offering had some rules about it. Just like your parents and teachers have rules, Yahweh had very specific rules that the adults were to follow whenever they brought a grain offering to Yahweh. There were 3 ingredients that were required, and always had to be included for the grain offering. They were: fine flour, oil and frankincense. **(Place mixture on board and point to each item.)** The offeror brought a lump of the uncooked grain offering and handed it to the priest. **(Place offeror with lump in their hand and priest on board.)** Next week we will learn about what the priest did with it.

Yahweh also told them that they could bring a cooked grain offering, too. He gave rules about how it could be cooked. It could be cooked in a pot **(place stewing pot on board)** or made on a griddle **(place griddle on board)**, or it could be baked in an oven **(place oven on board)**. Now wait a minute! That can't be an oven; it looks like an ant hill or a miniature volcano! Well, guess what? The ovens in the middle of the wilderness didn't look like the ovens we have in our kitchens today. They built them on the ground with dirt and clay, and they baked their bread on the sides of the oven. Wow, that sounds like fun! I don't know about you, but just thinking about all of this bread has me feeling hungry. But we still have a little bit more to our story.



The cooked grain offering had a few rules. Yahweh told the people that the offering could NOT be baked with any leavening. **(Place leavening with 'x' on board.)** Leavening is what makes breads and cakes all nice and fluffy, like this. **(Point to baked goods.)** Breads and cakes without leavenings are flat, like this. **(Point to unleavened breads on board.)** Matzah is what we usually eat all week during the Days of Unleavened Bread. Oh, yes—one more thing that the grain offering could never have was honey. **(Place honey pot with 'x' on board.)** I wonder what Yahweh's reason was for this. One day we will get to ask Him.

Another grain offering was the first-fruits. This was the very first harvest that you gathered up. And because Yahweh wanted His people to show Him thankfulness, remembering that everything we get is from Him, this first-fruits grain offering was NOT of ripe, golden heads. It had to be young, green heads of grain, crushed. **(Place crushed heads on board.)** The first-fruits grain offering was also burned on the altar to Yahweh. **(Place altar with burning grain heads on board.)** Next week we will find out what the priests got to do with the grain offerings. Oh, one more thing Yahweh said about all grain offerings is that they had to be seasoned with salt. **(Place salt on board.)** I don't know about you, but I think salt makes everything taste better!

When Mosheh told the people all that they had to do, he gave them very specific details. And although we do NOT do those things now, we still want to learn about them. After all, Yahweh took the time to tell Mosheh about these things, and they were written down in the Scriptures for us. So, we should take the time to learn about them, and be thinking about what our wonderful King might want us to give up for Him today, so we can live in a way that gives Him pleasure!

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!

