

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.

2 Mandatory Offerings – Instructions to the PRIESTS and the OFFEROR

Shalom children! Today we are going to learn about the instructions Yahweh gave to Mosheh about the 2 mandatory offerings He wanted. Wow! That's a really big word! Let's say it together: MAN-DA-TO-RY... Very good children! A mandatory offering was something Yahweh said the children of Yisra'el absolutely must give. Unlike the 3 voluntary offerings which we have already learned about where you gave Yahweh these offerings because you wanted to, these were offerings Yahweh expected to receive from everyone so that they would not get punished. It's kind of like when your parents give you a chore to do and say it's your job to do it and no one else's.

So, when would a mandatory sacrifice be needed? Well, let's say it suddenly came to your attention that you had sinned by accidentally doing something forbidden in the Torah. You would then have to bring a type of mandatory offering as an atonement for your mistake, so that you could be forgiven by Yahweh. Have you ever found yourself guilty of something that was not right, even though you didn't mean to do it?

You boys may have started a friendly wrestling match with a little brother, but the next thing you knew, he had a big bruise on his arm and went crying to your mom. **(Place boys wrestling on board.)** Did you say you were sorry? Did you do something nice to make it up to him, or did you complain that your kid brother was just being a crybaby? And girls, have any of you ever asked if your sister would let you play with her favorite doll? But, oops! You pulled the arm or leg too hard and now your sister's best doll has a missing arm! **(Place girl with broken doll in her hand on board.)** You didn't mean to do it; but you were not very careful with her doll, were you? And when your dad finds out, he'll probably tell you to do all her chores for a whole week, just to make it up to her!

Well, that's a lot like the reason a Yisra'elite would give a mandatory offering to Yahweh. Whenever someone sinned by mistake, Yahweh wanted them to show they were truly sorry and were serious about being friends with Him again. Now, it may make you sad to know that because people did things that were wrong, some animals had to die. Well, Yahweh didn't feel very happy about that part of it, either. **(Place sad emoji on board.)** But He cared about His people very much and wanted them to have a way to confess they were wrong and show they were sincerely sorry. **(Place care emoji on board.)** That way, they might learn to be more careful next time and pay better attention to how serious He is about His laws. Yahweh is pleased when we're sorry; and He doesn't want any of His children to be afraid that they have no way to make things right with Him.

Now, we know Yahweh likes things done in order, and everyone is expected to do things according to the rules, right? The animal sacrifices were also like that. No matter what kind of sacrifice, it had to be brought to the Tent of Meeting, to be offered by the priest. **(Place offeror bringing sacrifice to priest on board.)** For an accidental sin, the person bringing the animal had to put their hands on the head of the animal before it was killed for sacrifice. **(Place offeror with hand on sacrifice on board.)**

And there were detailed rules about what type of animal was required. For instance, if a high priest had sinned, a young bull was offered. **(Place high priest with bull on board.)** If the entire congregation had sinned, a young bull was offered as well, and the elders would put their hands on the head of the bull. **(Place congregation and elders with bull on board.)** If it was a ruler who had sinned, he needed to offer a boy goat **(place ruler and male goat on board)**; but if it was an ordinary person, they were to bring a girl goat, or a ewe-lamb. **(Place offeror with female goat and offeror with ewe-lamb on board.)** If you were poor, you could bring pigeons or turtledoves. **(Place birds on board.)** And if you were even poorer, Yahweh allowed for those people to bring fine flour to atone for their sin. **(Place sack of flour on board.)**

Some things were supposed to be done by the priest and some by the person bringing the sacrifice. There were also rules about whether it was to be cooked and eaten or slowly burnt to a crisp on the altar overnight. **(Place altar with ashes on board.)** Just imagine all those ashes! Well, of course Yahweh thought of that, too, so He gave very specific orders for the priests when it was time to clean up! **(Place priest taking out ashes on board.)** The priests were told to change from their priestly outfits and take those ashes outside the camp. Now, these days, we do NOT do any animal sacrifices. But just remember, Yahweh had a reason for telling Mosheh every detail about how to do all these things. He wanted them to be written in our Bibles today, so shouldn't we take the time to learn about them? When it comes to obeying His Torah, it's often easy to become careless, or even lazy. **(Place yawning emoji on board)**. Even though we don't do sacrifices today, we should all confess our wrong-doing whenever we have done something on purpose against Torah and even by mistake. When we ask Him, Yahweh will certainly help us be more careful to do everything just as He said, even if it costs us something. Isn't it a peaceful feeling to know that you are forgiven by Him, and that you have another chance to do things His way?

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!

