

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 PRIESTS

Shalom children! Wasn't it exciting to find out about the building of Yahweh's beautiful Tabernacle in the book of Shemot? We saw how Yahweh chose certain people to do certain jobs, and then He gave them wonderful skills to do those jobs exactly as He wanted. One special person we have already met is Mosheh's brother Aharon, who was chosen by Yahweh for a very special job—to serve as the High Priest. **(Place Aharon in priestly garments on board.)** Aharon's 4 sons were chosen also, so they could work alongside their father as servants who took care of the Tabernacle. **(Place priests on board.)**

Remember that last week we talked about the offerors bringing their Burnt, Peace, and Grain Offerings to the priests? The priests had a lot to do with helping the children of Yisra'el to properly present their offerings to Yahweh. Mosheh had given the priests lots and lots of details about how the different offerings were to be made. Now, those things are not done these days, but we still want to learn about them. After all, a long time ago Yahweh took the time to tell Mosheh about how He wanted offerings to be done. Mosheh wrote them all down; then Yahweh made sure we would still have them right here in our own Scriptures for us to learn about today.

Well, early every morning, before anything was offered, the priest had to get up and lay fresh wood on the fire. **(Place altar with wood next to it on board.)** By the time the offerors came to the Tabernacle with their animals, the fire on the altar was nice and hot. In fact, Yahweh had told the priests to keep the fire on His altar burning all the time; it was to never, ever to be put out! **(Place night and day offering scene on board.)** It's a good thing that Aharon had sons to help him with this job, because someone had to stay up all night and keep an eye on that fire! Hmm, I wonder if that is how the first night shift job got started.

So, because lots and lots of offerings were being burned up on the altar, Yahweh had to give them instructions for cleaning it up. How many of you have gotten to see a fire pit or fireplace? Do you know what happens to the wood, once it has all burned up? That's right—it turns into ashes. **(Place altar with ashes on board.)** And boy, can ashes make a mess! Well, the priest's job was to gather up the ashes on the altar and take them all outside the camp to a clean place. But first, Yahweh said he would need to change out of his priestly linen clothes. **(Remove priests from board and place priest in regular garment on board.)**



Only after the priest had changed into everyday clothes was he allowed to scoop up all those black ashes and get them out of there—all the way outside the camp. **(Place priest in regular clothing taking out ashes on board.)**

(Remove all characters from board.)

Now remember: offerings weren't only of animals, but there were also grain offerings. The priest would take a handful of the uncooked flour, oil and frankincense lump and burn it on the altar as a 'remembrance portion' to Yahweh. **(Place priest with lump in his hand on board.)** It was the same if a person brought a cooked grain offering; the priest must also separate a piece of it to burn on the altar as a 'remembrance portion' to Yahweh. **(Place priest with unleavened bread piece on board.)**

Then they got to gather with their family in the courtyard and eat the rest of the grain offering. **(Place priest and family eating grain offering in courtyard on board.)** Oh... While we're talking about eating, did you know that the priests got to eat part of the peace offering, too? **(Place priests eating peace offering in courtyard on board.)** You see, the priests' jobs didn't give them any time to grow and prepare their own food. So Yahweh gave them the breast and thigh as part of the offering to eat. Isn't it thoughtful of Yahweh to make sure all their needs were taken care of? **(Place caring emoji on board.)**

Aharon and his sons did everything that Yahweh commanded them to do, right down to the details. Yahweh greatly blessed them, as long as they were careful to obey all that He told them. Let's do our very best to pay attention to our parents and do just what they tell us. That way, we can be blessed, too!

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!

