

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.

Here is the link for a reading of this story:

https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/steveberkson/episodes/2022-04-08T06_52_17-07_00

Pesach/Chag HaMatzot Edition – Passover Story

Shalom children! I am so glad we are all here together. This is a very special time of year. We are going to celebrate the first feast days of the year - Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. These feast days were commanded by Yahweh a very long time ago for us to keep and He told his people to teach them to their children forever.

I want to take you back to a story that you may remember from one of our lessons not too long ago. This is the story of when the Yisra'elites were finally getting to leave Mitsrayim. **(Place pyramids on board.)** They had just seen Yahweh use His mighty power to force Pharaoh **(place Pharaoh on board)** into letting the Yisra'elites go, and now it was almost time for them to leave and start the journey to their new home, the land of Kena'an. **(Place Kena'an on board.)** But before they did that, Yahweh had some special instructions for them. Yahweh told Mosheh that something was going to happen during their last night in Mitsrayim, and it was very important that they listened and obeyed, and did exactly as He instructed.

(Remove all characters from board.)

First, He told the Yisra'elites that this month, called Abib, was to be the very 1st month of the year for them. Let's say the number 1 in Hebrew together, children - 'achat.' **(Place Number 1 on board and have children say it with you.)** Now the Yisra'elites had a way to know when Yahweh expected them to do things. **(Remove Number 1 from board.)**

Next, He told them that they were to get a 1-year-old male lamb from the sheep or goats to cook for the whole family **(place perfect lambs on board)** on the 10th day of this first month. Children, let's say the number 10 in Hebrew together - 'eser.' **(Place Number 10 on board and have children say it with you.)**

Now, some of you may be thinking, 'Gross! A sheep or goat?' But these were things the Yisra'elites liked to eat, the same way you may like chicken nuggets or hot dogs. **(Place chicken nuggets and hot dogs on board.)**

Yahweh then gave the next set of instructions. It began with how to choose the lamb. The 1st rule was that it had to be perfect. That means it couldn't have broken bones, or have an eye out, or have a limp, or anything like that. **(Place group of sheep and goats on board and point to the perfect sheep and goat in front.)**



Now, Yahweh does love all His creatures, even if they have a limp or don't look quite perfect. But He makes everything for a purpose, and for this special meal they were about to eat, He wanted them to have a perfect lamb or goat. Yahweh told them that they had to keep the animal until the 14th day of the month. In Hebrew, the number 14 is 'arba esre.' **(Place Number 14 on board.)** Children can you say it with me? Arba esre! Good job!

Since the animals were outside all the time and could get hurt or run away, they probably needed someone to take care of that special lamb or goat to make sure it was safe. Because the adults were so busy getting ready to leave Mitsrayim, it was probably a little boy or girl just like you. **(Place children near lamb on board.)** Do you think you could take good care of that lamb?

Okay, so if they chose their lamb or goat on the 10th day of the month and now it is the 14th day, how many days did they keep that animal safe? Can you count with me in Hebrew? 1—achat, 2—shtayim, 3—shalosh, and 4—arba. **(Place Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 on board and say them in Hebrew as you point to them.)**

Yahweh then told the Yisra'elites how to cook the lamb. Not that they didn't know how to cook, but for this occasion, He wanted to make sure they didn't boil it the way you would boil, say, a stew. And they definitely couldn't eat it raw. Now, you may think, "Oh, gross! Who eats raw meat?" Well, if you have ever eaten beef jerky, or any other type of jerky, you have had meat that wasn't cooked. And back in Mitsrayim, they probably got used to drying meat. But, as I said before, Yahweh had special instructions; He wanted the Yisra'elites to be sure to prepare the food exactly the way He told them to. Yahweh said to roast the lamb - the whole thing, legs and head too. **(Place roasting lamb on board.)** Then they probably made it look nice on their plates. **(Place lamb with herbs on plate on board.)**

There was one more rule about the lamb: the whole family was told to share and eat the meal. That means everyone! There was no saying, "Gross! I don't want that for dinner!" Some parents tell their kids that they have to take at least one bite of their food before they're allowed to say, "No thank you, I don't like it." Do you have a 'no-thank-you' bite rule in your family? Well, no such rule here!

Now of course, Yahweh wouldn't want us to be wasteful. He knew that some families were small, and some families were big. **(Place larger and smaller family on board.)** So, He said that if a family was too small to finish off a whole lamb or goat, then they could share it with another family. Yahweh always thinks of everything, doesn't He? **(Place caring emoji on board.)** He also told them that just in case there was still some leftover meat, they had to burn whatever was left over by the next morning.

You may wonder how you can get full on just lamb or goat, but they had other things to eat with their meal. One thing they were to eat was unleavened bread - I bet you all know what this is. **(Place matzah on board and allow children to answer.)** That's right; it's matzah! We will be eating it at the Seder and for 7 days after that, which is a whole week! Can you say 7 in Hebrew with me children? 7 - 'sheva.' **(Place Number 7 on board and say it with the children.)** They were also to eat bitter herbs. **(Place bitter herbs on board.)** Maybe that didn't sound very yummy, but remember that everyone had to eat the special dinner.



Now, there were more rules than just how to prepare the food and what to eat. There were also rules about how to dress, and things they had to do to their houses. First, after getting the lamb ready to roast, they had to take some of its blood and put it all around the door. **(Place hyssop and blood basin on board.)** Now, I know we talked before about the 10 plagues of Mitsrayim, but in this story we can explain a little more about that 10th plague. You see, Yahweh was going to pass through the whole land as a Destroyer. When He did, all the firstborn of both humans and animals would die. **(Place death of first-born scene on board.)**

(Remove all characters from board.)

But Yahweh wanted to protect His people. He knew that if the people trusted Him, they would do as He said. That way, when He came to their houses, He would see the blood on their doors and just pass over their homes, and their firstborn wouldn't die. **(Place door with blood on board.)** Okay, did anyone catch that? Do you understand now why we have a 'Passover' celebration? It's so that we will always remember that when the Destroyer came, He passed over His people, the Yisra'elites, and they didn't die.

Remember how I said they had to dress a specific way? Well, it's not like they had to wear special clothes, but they had to be ready to rush out to go on this big journey. In order to help them move faster, Yahweh told them to gird their loins. Say what??!! Sure, that phrase may sound funny to you, because it's not one that we use nowadays. But back then, everyone wore long robes. **(Place man in robe on board.)** And let me tell you, if you try to run in a long robe, you are not getting very far. Well, maybe far down on the floor from falling, but you know what I mean!

So, each person had to grab the back of his robe, bring it forward, and tuck it into his belt. **(Remove man in robe from board and place girded man on board.)** And ta-da! They had pants! Well, sort of. Anyway, it kept their legs free so they could move faster. And guess what else? No bare feet. I am guessing maybe they were used to coming home from a long day of making bricks, kicking off their sandals, stretching their toes, and sitting down to chill in their favorite chair. But there was no time for chilling that night! Yahweh wanted them to be ready to go. Don't bother getting comfortable for dinner; keep your staff handy and be all packed and ready to hit the road. **(Point to sandals and staff.)**

Okay, so let's now take a look at how the moon would look on the day the Yisra'elites left Mitsrayim. **(Place full moon on board.)** That sure looks like a bright, full moon, doesn't? As we said before, Yahweh thinks of everything, doesn't He? Of course, He does! He is Yahweh, and He always looks out for His people. When the Yisra'elites finally left Mitsrayim, they had a beautiful full moon to light up the dark night so they could see.



Now we know what day they were to eat the meal, what they were to eat, how they were to cook the meal, how they needed to dress for the meal, and what they needed to do to protect their homes. But if they only did that meal for 1 day, do you wonder why we celebrate for a whole week? Yahweh actually answers that in Deuteronomy 6:20-25. It says,

"When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is the meaning of the witnesses, and the laws, and the right-rulings which Yahweh our Elohim has commanded you?' Then you shall say to your son, 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Mitsrayim, and Yahweh brought us out of Mitsrayim with a strong hand, and Yahweh sent signs and wonders, great and grievous, upon Mitsrayim, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes. And He brought us out from there, to bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers. And Yahweh commanded us to do all these laws, to fear Yahweh our Elohim, for our good always, to keep us alive, as it is today. And it is righteousness for us when we guard to do all this command before Yahweh our Elohim, as He has commanded us.'

Once they left Mitsrayim, they would be settling into their new home. When they got comfortable there, Yahweh wanted them never to forget about this day. That's why He said to celebrate this day for 7 days every year, in the same month, from the 15th day until the 21st day. Yahweh said, "When you get to your new home, every year at the same time, I want you to make a big feast and take off from your jobs on the 15th day of the month through the 21st day of the month. **(Place modern day family at Seder on board.)** And between those days, do not eat any bread with leavening in it; only eat unleavened bread. That way, you'll have time to talk to your children and teach them why we celebrate this feast."

And that is exactly why we are talking about this today. It's our job to tell you why we celebrate Passover every year, and why we eat matzah a whole week. Maybe it's not so much fun when you're not allowed to eat hamantashen, like we do on Purim, or doughnuts like we do during Chanukah, **(place hamantashen and doughnuts on board)** and some other things you may like to eat, **(place baked good on board)**, but it's not a punishment. No, it's because when we get away from our everyday routines, we also stop and think. Long ago, those Yisra'elites were anxiously waiting to be told when they could leave. They had to eat their whole meal listening to some very sad sounds going on outside. **(Place Biblical time family at Seder on board.)** So, during this week, whenever you eat that piece of matzah, remember the story of the 1st Passover. Think how blessed we are to enjoy Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread with our friends and family — and most of all that Yahweh saved His people.

Well children, we have come to the end of our story for today. Can you say Chag Sameach with me to wish each other a happy feast? Chag Sameach! We will see you next time for another exciting Little Gems story!

