

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.

Do NOT Do as They Do

Shalom children! When Yahweh gave the Torah to the Yisra'elites, He gave lots of instructions about the best way for them to do many, many different things. Today we will be talking about some more of those instructions.

We will start out with some rules about how Yisra'elites are to eat. First, Yahweh tells them that they should NOT eat blood. **(Place blood with 'X' on board.)** Now, you might wonder why anybody would want to do that. It was bad enough back in Mitsrayim, when they had to watch the river turn to blood, but to actually eat it on purpose? Believe it or not, there were some people who wanted to do that, but Yahweh tells them here that this is NOT a good idea. He explains that the life of the flesh is in the blood, and the blood is for making atonement for one's life on the altar, so it should NOT be eaten. When the Yisra'elites want to eat the meat of an animal they have hunted, like a gazelle steak or a wild turkey burger, they need to pour out the blood of the animal on the ground and cover it with dirt before preparing it for food. And remember when we talked about how there are animals that Yahweh considers clean and others that He considers unclean? Well, the Yisra'elites are to eat only animals that are clean. **(Place clean animals on board.)**

Yahweh also wants to make sure the Yisra'elites know that they are set-apart to Himself, so He tells them NOT to act the way the other nations were acting. They were doing lots of things that made Yahweh really upset, like giving their children to false gods. **(Place golden calf on board.)** Instead, He wants the children to be loved and cared for and taught His Torah. He also tells them NOT to destroy the corners of their beards and not to round the corners of the hair on their heads. **(Place Pharaoh on board.)** They are NOT to hurt themselves when grieving for the dead, and NOT to tattoo themselves. **(Place person with tattoo on board.)** He reminds them NOT to make idols to worship, and He commands them NEVER to practice witchcraft or talk to spirits.

Instead, He wants them to guard His Torah and do the things that He has told them to do. **(Place tablets on board.)** This includes keeping His Sabbath as well as His other instructions. **(Place Torah scroll on board.)** That way they will be set-apart to Him and can expect to have a good life in the land that He has promised to give them.



Let's list some of the other instructions He gives them in this parsha:

(When placing characters on board, discuss with children whether the picture conveys the Torah instruction or opposite of it.)

- Respect your mother and father. **(Place boy sticking his tongue out at mother on board.)**
- Don't steal, lie, or cheat. **(Place boy with hand in cookie jar on board.)**
- Love your neighbor as yourself. **(Place fighting men on board.)**
- Don't hate your neighbors, rob them, or treat them wrongly. **(Place man stealing from neighbor on board.)**
- Love the strangers who live among you, and don't treat them badly. Remember that you yourselves used to be strangers in Mitsrayim. **(Place fighting Mitsrite and Hebrew on board.)**
- Don't talk badly about anyone or hold a grudge against them. **(Place false accuser children on board.)**
- Show honor to older people. **(Place elderly couple on board.)**
- Do NOT be unfaithful to your wife or husband. **(Place married couple on board.)**
- Make sure people get their correct pay for a job. **(Place money on board.)**
- Don't bring dishonor to Yahweh's name. **(Place 'I AM' on board.)**
- Bring animals that are to be offered to Yahweh to the right place. **(Place tabernacle on board.)**
- Be nice to those who are deaf or blind. **(Place deaf and blind person on board.)**
- Don't show special treatment to someone just because they are rich or poor. **(Place rich and poor man on board.)**
- When harvesting crops, leave some in the corners of your fields so that poor people can come gather it. **(Place sheaf and grape cluster on board.)**
- When you live in the land, don't eat fruit from a tree for its first three years. The fruit from the fourth year is set-apart for Yahweh. In the fifth year you can eat the fruit. **(Place fig tree on board.)**
- When you are planting a field, don't mix different types of seeds together. **(Place hand with mixed seeds and 'X' on board.)**
- Don't wear a type of clothing with mixed threads. **(Place different threads and 'X' on board.)**
- Use correct weights and accurate scales when you are measuring something. **(Place scales on board.)**

Those sound like really good instructions. Don't you think so? Yahweh wants what is best for the Yisra'elites, so He is giving them all these instructions so that they will be able to live the best life possible. **(Place happy family on board.)** It's kind of like the way your parents and teachers show you the right way to do things so that you don't get hurt, and they teach you how to be a good friend so that everyone feels included and things stay fair.

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!

