

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.

Offerings of the 12 Leaders

Shalom, children! Here we are in the wilderness once again, gazing at the beautiful Dwelling Place that Mosheh and his helpers have finished building for Yahweh. **(Place Dwelling Place on board.)** We saw Mosheh go all around it and through it with his anointing oil, setting apart every part and every piece for service to Elohim. And we met the three clans of the Lewites: Gershon, Merari and Qehath. **(Place 3 sons of Lewi on board.)** Their clans were counted, and each clan was given its special assignment for the Dwelling Place.

Listen! Can you hear the rumbling of big wooden wheels, and the bellowing of some cattle? Look, a bunch of people are walking toward us. Even Mosheh is squinting his eyes, trying to figure it out! Ooh, they're coming closer! I can count 6 big, covered wagons, each one pulled by a pair of bulls. **(Place Gershon and Merari wagons on board side by side.)** Hey, didn't we all think that covered wagons were invented by our American pioneers, like the one in Little House on the Prairie? I guess we got that one wrong! And there, beside each bull is a leader from one of the tribes - 12 leaders in all. **(Place 12 leaders on board.)** So, Yahweh explained to Mosheh that he should accept these gifts from the 12 tribes, to help the Lewites do their jobs. **(Place Mosheh on board.)** Every time Yisra'el was led somewhere by Yahweh, the Lewites would have lots of heavy stuff to carry, and those wagons would come in mighty handy.

But here's something interesting: to the clan of Gershon Mosheh gave only 2 wagons and 4 cattle **(point to Gershon wagons on board)**, while the clan of Merari was given 4 wagons and 8 cattle **(point to Merari wagons on board)**. And the clan of Qehath wasn't given any wagons or cattle at all! Do you think that was fair? Well, let's look at what kind of work they were assigned to do, and see why it was perfectly okay for each clan to get what they got.

The clan of Gershon got only 2 wagons, but that was enough for them, because their assignment was to carry the heavy fabrics and materials which could be rolled up and neatly packed. **(Place Gershonites carrying coverings on board.)** They had the tent roof, which was made of 4 layers of skins and linen tapestries, and the doorways to the Dwelling Place and to the courtyard, as well as the veil covering the Most Set-apart Place. Then there were all the linen screens that marked off the courtyard, plus the cords of the Tent, which could also be rolled up. **(Place cords on board.)**

What about the clan of Merari? Well, they really needed 4 whole wagons to carry the big, solid heavy things. **(Point to Merari wagons on board.)** Do you remember what the Dwelling Place walls were made of? Did anyone think of wooden boards, covered with gold? If you did, you are right! **(Place Merarites carrying gold boards on board.)** Most all of the heavy stuff was made from acacia wood and covered with either gold or bronze, like the columns all around the courtyard, and the pillars and the bars that held the walls in place. The Merarites also had the silver sockets and bronze pegs, and the cords of the courtyard, along with all the heavy utensils of the slaughter-place and the bronze wash basin. **(Place courtyard scene on board and point to items.)** You can't roll up stuff like that, can you? So, they were very happy to get their 4 wagons, weren't they?

Now, what about the clan of Qehath? Well, you see, they didn't need any wagons or cattle, because their assignment was to carry all the set-apart furniture pieces, including the ark, the altar of incense, the lampstand, and the table of showbread. Remember how Yahweh commanded long poles to go through rings on the sides of most of these pieces? He didn't want these precious things bouncing around on a wagon - no way! Instead, He wanted them personally carried with poles on the shoulders of the sons of Qehath. **(Place Qehathites carrying ark of the Witness on board.)** Boy, those Qehathites must have been big, strong guys! These things were so set-apart that the Qehathites were forbidden to enter the Tent until the priests had first gone in and put a special blue covering over each piece. They also carried all the utensils and the bronze altar.

Now each of the Lewite clans had just what they needed to do their job. Now that the wagons and bulls had been received, it was time to present a special offering to Yahweh for the dedication of the Dwelling Place. The men of each tribe brought items made from gold and silver, and many animals for the dedication sacrifice. They brought incense and grains and oil, too, so that the priests could present to Yahweh every different kind of offering that His people would ever bring to His altar.

And do you know what? Each one of the tribes brought exactly the same offerings, in the same amount! Each tribe presented a heavy silver dish and a heavy silver bowl, filled with fine flour mixed with oil for the grain offering. **(Place dish and bowl on board.)** Each tribe also brought a golden ladle filled with incense **(place ladle on board)**, and different animals for the different kinds of offerings. For the burnt offering they brought 1 bull, 1 ram, 1 male lamb, and 1 male goat. **(Place burnt offering animals on board.)** For the peace offerings, each tribe brought 2 bulls, 5 male goats, and 5 male lambs a year old. **(Place peace offering animals on board.)** And for the sin offering each tribe brought 1 male goat. **(Place male goat on board.)** Each tribe brought exactly the same things! Yehudah was the biggest tribe, with more than twice as many men as the little tribe of Binyamin; but each one of the 12 tribes brought the exact same things for their offering.



Do you ever have a sad feeling that someone else is loved more than you are? **(Place sad emoji on board.)** Does it seem that they are better because they have more talents, brains or personality than you think you do? These offerings of dedication show us that each tribe had an equal share in Yahweh's Dwelling Place.

The Scriptures also tell us that Mosheh, their leader, was able to come into the Dwelling Place and hear Yahweh's voice speaking to him, just the way one person speaks to another. But Yahweh wanted them all to know that He was their special possession, because of the Covenant He had with them. He belonged to all their tribes, and still does today. **(Place deliverance emoji on board.)**

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!