

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.

Yahweh's Gift to the Priesthood

Shalom children! Remember how the priests, Aharon and his sons, were dedicated to serve inside Yahweh's Dwelling Place, and to be in charge of all the set-apart pieces there? **(Place Aharon and 2 sons on board.)** And we also saw that the 3 clans of the Lewites were given their assignments for carrying the Dwelling Place and everything in it, wherever Yahweh wanted Yisra'el to go. **(Place 3 sons of Lewi on board.)** But there was now much more to be done. He didn't want the Lewites to get bored sitting around waiting for His cloud to move. Remember, there were now many thousands of people in the nation of Yisra'el. Who would help the priests perform all their offerings of big, heavy cattle and sheep and goats? And who is going to clean up after all that? We are now going to see Yahweh give a wonderful gift to the priests. He is going to set apart the whole tribe of Lewi to help Aharon and his sons get everything done.

In order to set apart all the men of Lewi who were 25 years old and up, there was going to be a big ceremony. The priests would offer a burnt offering of a young bull, along with fine flour mixed with oil. **(Place 1st bull and flour/oil in dish on board.)** That was to show Yahweh that these Lewites were sorry for any sins they have done and wanted to quit doing them. The second bull was a sin offering; that means they wanted Yahweh to forgive them for breaking His law in ways that they didn't realize and just made a mistake. **(Place 2nd bull on board.)** Do any of you sometimes forget to do something your parents told you? You meant to do it, but just got busy with something and forgot! Those mistakes need to be forgiven, too, don't they? And your Mom and Dad want to hear you promise that you won't forget again, right?

When we want to obey Yahweh, it's important to confess our sins, isn't it? Then we can ask Him to forgive us and wash us clean inside so that we can be happy each day for the chance to serve Him. **(Place happy emoji on board.)** It was the same with the priests, and with the Lewites who were given to help them. They had to wash themselves squeaky clean, along with all their clothes, before they could come before Almighty Yahweh to be dedicated. **(Place Lewites washing clothes on board.)**

Now, the Lewites' ceremony was just a bit different from the ceremony for the priests. Both were first washed with water **(Place washing scene on board)**, but only the priests were dedicated by having the set-apart oil poured on them. **(Place Mosheh anointing priests scene on board.)** Why do you think only the priests got anointed with the oil? Well, where did the priests need go that no one else could go? Yes, inside the Holy Place! And what did they see and touch while they were in there? Right again!



They had to touch set-apart pieces of furniture, like the lampstand, the table of showbread, and the altar of incense. **(Place furniture pieces on board.)** And only the High Priest could enter where the ark of the Witness was, inside the Most Holy Place. **(Place ark of the Witness on board.)** Did he do that every day? Oh, no! He only went in there once a year so that Yahweh would forgive the sins of the whole nation of Yisra'el.

(Remove all characters from board.)

Now, there was one clan of Lewites who could enter the Holy Place, but only to carry the set-apart pieces to wherever Yahweh was going to lead them. Who remembers the name of that clan? Did someone say the clan of Qehath? That's right. The priests had to go in first and cover everything with special blue cloths, so that the Qehathites could not see or touch any of that special furniture, but only carry the pieces by poles on their shoulders. **(Place sons of Qehath carrying ark on board.)** So, when the Lewites were dedicated, they didn't need to have anointing oil on them - only the priests needed that.

Here's another interesting thing. Yahweh says that the Lewites themselves were actually a kind of offering! They would be offered to Him as a wave offering. **(Place Aharon waving Lewites on board.)** Now what on earth is a wave offering? Did the priests wave hi and goodbye to each clan of Lewites? Or maybe they grabbed each one under his arms and by his feet and just heaved him back and forth in front of the slaughter-place. Hmm, I don't think so! We know from the Torah that on special days the priests had to offer wave offerings from the crops - fruits, grains and harvests of Yisra'el. **(Place priest with wave offering on board.)** Yahweh always got a portion of the first and best of these crops. **(Place first-fruits on board.)** They were called first-fruits, and the priests had a certain way of presenting them to Yahweh. We don't know for sure, but probably they did something like moving a handful of the offering back and forth, then up and down. Let's try it: pretend you're holding some stalks of barley or wheat. Back and forth, then up and down. Very good! Now, we don't know exactly how the priests waved the Lewites, but it was probably very simple and just meant that the Lewites were now presented to Yahweh for His service.

But why did Yahweh want the Lewites to be waved as if they were first-fruits from the land? Well, how many remember the first Passover? What was the very last, most horrible plague that caused Pharaoh to drive Yisra'el out of his land?

Yes, it was the Messenger of Death that Yahweh sent to kill all the first-born in the land. **(Place first-born plague scene on board.)** But did any of the first-born of the Yisra'elites die? No! They had followed Mosheh's instructions to slaughter a lamb and to put its blood on the top and sides of their doorposts. **(Place blood door scene on board.)** They ate roasted lamb, then locked themselves in their houses, all packed up, dressed and ready to go. **(Place first Passover seder scene on board.)** When the Messenger of Death saw the blood on their doorposts, what did it do? Right! It 'passed over' the houses of the Yisra'elites and only killed the first-born of the Mitsrites. It didn't matter if a Mitsrite was a baby, or if he was 80 years old; every Mitsrite first-born died!



Now, what does all that have to do with the Lewites? You see, the night Yahweh saved the first-born Yisra'elites, it meant that He had actually bought them for His own; they belonged to Him, for His service. But now that He had a Dwelling Place, Yahweh decided not to pick just the first-born from each family to serve Him there. Instead, He decided to replace them with a whole tribe - the tribe of Lewites, because they had shown their faithfulness to Him. Presenting the Lewites as a wave offering showed that Yahweh was taking the Lewites as His first-fruits, in the place of the first-born of the people, to serve Him in His Dwelling Place. **(Place 3 sons of Lewi on board.)**

Many years later, when Yisra'el entered the Promised Land, the Lewites were not given an inheritance in the land, like the other tribes. They had no pastures or fields to graze cattle or grow crops. Instead, they took turns serving in Yahweh's House, and studied the Torah so they could teach the people how to obey it. What did they have to eat? Well, they had to depend upon all different kinds of offerings and gifts that the rest of Yisra'el brought to the Temple. **(Place gift packages on board.)** Wasn't Yahweh good to provide everything the Lewites needed, so they would have time to study Torah and to serve Him at His Dwelling Place? **(Place Lewite studying torah scroll on board.)**

Today we have leaders and their helpers who serve Him and His people all the time, in all sorts of different ways. Even though we don't have a Temple or priests today, these people often give up their chances to work and make a lot of money so that they have time to give themselves to honoring Him, studying His Torah, and helping Yahweh's people. **(Place Rabbi studying Scriptures on board.)** Do you think we should all be ready to help them in any way we can, and follow all their instructions? Should we be as generous as we can with our offerings to Yahweh, so He can take the very best care of them? Yes, we should!

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!

