

# PARSHA POINTS

## LITTLE GEMS

### Parent/Teacher Preparation:

Please see the instructions for the Little Gems story on the YMTOI website. We recommend that you print out the characters and familiarize yourself with each story so that you can implement the visual representations of your choice (felt, laminated or stand-ups) at the appropriate time.

## Waters of Strife

Shalom children! Last week, we talked about how the Yisra'elites complained against having Mosheh and Aharon as their leaders, and the sad events that happened because of that. This week, we're going to talk about some more things that the Yisra'elites were not happy about. Let's see if they have learned to trust Yahweh yet.

The Yisra'elites had been led by Yahweh to the Wilderness of Tsin, to stay at Qadesh. **(Place group of Yisra'elites on board.)** Miryam had died, so they buried her there. But then the trouble started. You see, there was no water to drink, so the people came to Mosheh and Aharon again, full of complaints. **(Place Mosheh and Aharon in priestly garments on board next to Yisra'elites.)** The people felt sure that they would not make it through the harsh wilderness, and wished they had just stayed in Mitsrayim, where they used to have figs and grapes and pomegranates to eat. There was no grain, either, and no water for them to drink. So once again, Mosheh and Aharon went back to the Tent of Appointment to pray to Yahweh.

**(Place Tent of Appointment on board, and move Mosheh and Aharon to the tent.)**

Yahweh told Mosheh exactly what to do. He was to take his rod and have Aharon help him gather all the people together near a big rock. Yahweh said that Mosheh was to stand in front of all the people and speak to the rock, and water would gush out of the rock for them to drink. So Mosheh took the rod, and they gathered all the Yisra'elites together.

**(Place rock on board in front of Yisra'elites. Move Mosheh and Aharon to the rock. Place rod in Mosheh's hand.)**



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Now Mosheh was very angry with the Yisra'elites because of all their grumbling. He stood before the people and asked if he should bring water out of the rock for them. Then he hit the rock twice with his rod. But wait a minute—didn't Yahweh ask him to SPEAK to the rock this time? He didn't tell Mosheh to hit it! Well, sure enough, lots of water came out, and all the people and animals drank. **(Replace rock with water coming out on board.)** But Yahweh was not happy with the way that Mosheh had handled the situation. He told Mosheh that because he had not believed and obeyed His instructions, Yahweh had not been set apart in the eyes of the Yisra'elites. Now Mosheh would not be allowed to go with the Yisra'elites into the good land that Yahweh had given them. Those waters were called Meribah, because they had argued there.

**(Remove rock with water coming out and Tent of Appointment from board.)**

Well, it so happened that the Yisra'elites were camped right next to the land of Edom, so after the rock incident, Mosheh sent some messengers to go talk to the king there. **(Place king and messengers on other side of board.)** The messengers explained to the king that Yisra'el had faced some hard times. After all, they had been trapped in Mitsrayim for many years, and they had not been treated nicely there. But the people had called upon Yahweh for help, and He heard them and led them out of Mitsrayim. And now, here they were in Qadesh, right next to Edom, so they wanted the king's permission to pass through his land. They promised not to walk through the farmland, or even drink their water. They would stay on the road until they were all the way across. But the king said no, he would not give them permission to walk through the land. They asked again, but the king still would not let them come into his land.

**(Remove king and messengers from board.)**

So instead, Yahweh led the Yisra'elites away from Qadesh to camp at Mount Hor. **(Place mountain on board.)** There Yahweh told Mosheh that it was time for Aharon to be gathered to his people, and that he would not be entering the land because of what happened at Meribah. Mosheh, Aharon, and his son El'azar went up to Mount Hor, and the priest's clothing that Aharon was wearing was put onto El'azar. **(Place Mosheh, Aharon in priestly garments, and El'azar on mountain.)** Then Mosheh and El'azar came down from the mountain, but Aharon did not come down with them, because he had died there. **(Remove Aharon in priestly garments and El'azar from board and bring Mosheh and El'azar in priestly garments down from the mountain.)** When the Yisra'elites heard this, they were sad and missed Aharon. Before continuing on their journey, they spent 30 days remembering him.

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!

