

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.

Land Inheritance

Shalom children! Welcome back to another Little Gems story. Today, we are going to hear about another census that was taken of the Yisra'elite people. Do you remember what a census is? It is when all the people belonging to a certain group get counted.

This census was in order to number all the men who were at least 20 years old and ready to serve in Yisra'el's army. They were counted by their fathers' households. Let's look and see how their numbers changed since the last census.

(Place each tribe with their banner on the board as you read.)

- The tribe of **Re'uben** had 43,730. Now they had fewer people than they had at the last census.
- The tribe of **Shim'on** had 22,200. That was a lot fewer people than they had before.
- The tribe of **Gad** had 40,500, which was also fewer than before.
- The tribe of **Yehudah** had 76,500, which was more people than before.
- The tribe of **Yissaskar** had 64,300, which was also more people than before.
- The tribe of **Zebulun** had 60,500, which was more people than before.
- The tribe of **Menashsheh**, which was part of **Yoseph**, had 52,700. Again, this was more people than before.
- The tribe of **Ephrayim**, which was also part of **Yoseph**, had 32,500. This tribe was now smaller than before.
- The tribe of **Binyamin** had 45,600, which was more than before.
- The tribe of **Dan** had 64,400, which was more than before.
- The tribe of **Asher** had 53,400, which was also more than before.
- And the tribe of **Naphtali** had 45,400, which was fewer than before.

There was a total of 601,730 men who were registered in the census. That's a lot of people! But remember, just like last time, this was not nearly the number of all the Yisra'elites! They counted only the men who were old enough to serve in the army.

After they had finished counting the people, Yahweh told Mosheh how each tribe would receive land to live on when they got into Kena'an. **(Place map of the land on board.)** The larger tribes would get larger pieces of land, and the smaller tribes would get smaller pieces of land. The land would be divided randomly for both the big and small tribes. The sons of Lewi would not be getting any land, because Yahweh had a different job for them. So the Lewite boys who were at least 1 month old were counted separately. There were 23,000 of them, which was more than at the last census. **(Place Lewi with banner on board.)**

The only people who were still alive since the last census were Kaleb and Yehoshua. **(Place Kaleb and Yehoshua on board.)** The rest of the people who were counted this time were part of a new, younger group. Everyone else from the old group had died in the wilderness. One of those men who had died with the old group was named Tselophhad, from the tribe of Menashsheh. He left 5 living daughters, named Mahlah, No'ah, Hoglah, Milkah, and Tirtsah. **(Place daughters on board.)**

Now Tselophhad did not have any sons. And back then, when a man would die, his land and all that he owned would be given to his sons. This is called an inheritance. These days, inheritances can be given to both sons and daughters, but that's not the way it was done in ancient times. So, because Tselophhad's daughters had no brother to inherit their father's possessions, they went to Mosheh, El'azar, and the other leaders, and asked if the inheritance could be given to them. **(Place Mosheh and El'azar on board.)**

Mosheh didn't have the answer, so he went and asked Yahweh about their question. Yahweh said yes, the daughters could have an inheritance, just like a son would. **(Place order of inheritance scene on board and point to each person as they are mentioned.)** Yahweh said that from then on, if a man had no son, the inheritance would go to his daughter. I'm so glad that Yahweh was watching out for the daughters! But what if a man had no children of his own? Yahweh said that the inheritance would then go to his brothers. And if he had no brothers, it would go to his father's brothers. If the father had no brothers, then the inheritance would be given to his closest relative in the clan. This way, there would always be someone in the clan who could receive a person's inheritance.

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!