

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.

The Past, Present and Future

Shalom children! Welcome back to another Parsha Pearls story. Today we will continue listening to what Mosheh has to say to the new generation of Yisra'elites as they are on their journey and getting ready to enter the land. **(Place group of Yisra'elites and Mosheh on board.)**

He starts out by telling them that they need to listen to all the laws and right-rulings he is teaching them, so that they can live in the land Yahweh is giving them. **(Place Torah scroll on board.)** He tells them, "Don't add anything to what you've been given, and don't take anything away from it." Instead, they are supposed to guard the mitzvot and make sure to do them. Mosheh explains that by doing this, they will be wise and understanding. He doesn't want them to forget, because this is really important! He tells them to teach their children and grandchildren too, so that they won't forget either. **(Place children on board.)**

Next, Mosheh reminds the Yisra'elites of the time when they all stood before Yahweh at Mt. Horeb. They were told to hear Yahweh's words, to learn His laws and teach them to their children, so that they could always do them in the land He was giving them. They did not see Yahweh speaking to them; they only heard a voice. So Yahweh did not want them trying to represent Him by making anything that looked like a person, an animal, or anything else. And He did not want them bowing down to the sun, the moon or the stars, either. Here is an example of an idol—the thing that Yahweh doesn't want them to make. **(Place idol on board.)** Nope! Yahweh Himself brought them out of Mitsrayim so that they would not be involved with any of those things! Mosheh also reminds the Yisra'elites that he will not be there to lead them into the land because Yahweh will not allow him to enter. Man, if Mosheh won't be there with them when they go in, I hope they are listening to his instructions and stories closely, so they remember all of this!

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Mosheh warns them to be sure they don't forget the covenant Yahweh made with them, and to guard against making any idols. **(Point to idol on board.)** If their children or grandchildren forget and start making idols, or doing anything that Yahweh told them not to do, then Yahweh will be really sad. They will not be able to keep living in the land, and they will be scattered all over the world for a long time. **(Scatter Yisra'elites to far corner of board.)** But when that happens, they will still be able to seek Yahweh their Elohim, and He promises that they will find Him when they look for Him with all their hearts. Then they will be able to come back to Yahweh! **(Move Yisra'elites back to center of board, and remove idol from board.)** Mosheh reminds everyone that Yahweh will not leave them or forget the covenant He made with them.

Mosheh then gives them some questions to think about. Is there any Word as great as Yahweh's? Has any other group of people heard His voice coming out of fire like they have? **(Place burning bush on board.)** Has any other group of people seen Elohim do all these amazing wonders in order to rescue them out of slavery in Mitsrayim? **(Place death of firstborn scene on board.)** Nope, only Yisra'el! Yisra'el got to hear His voice from the heavens and receive His instructions **(point to burning bush)**; He loved their fathers, and He chose to show His power by bringing them out of Mitsrayim. So they should not forget that Yahweh is Elohim, and no one else.

(Remove all characters from board except for Mosheh, group of Yisra'elites and children.)

Mosheh then sums up for them the commands that they need to remember as they go into the land. They and all their children should respect Yahweh, and they should guard and do His mitzvot. He repeats to them one of the most famous instructions—one that you might know too. It's called the Shema: "Hear, O Yisra'el: Yahweh our Elohim, Yahweh is one!" In Hebrew, it goes, "Shema, Yisra'el: Yahweh Eloheinu, Yahweh echad!" Can you try to say that with me? **(Repeat with children.)** The next instruction is very famous too; we call it the V'havta. "You shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might. And these Words which I am commanding you today shall be in your heart, and you shall impress them upon your children, and shall speak of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up, and shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

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Mosheh reminds them that it is Yahweh who will bring them into the land, and will give them cities and houses and all kinds of good food. **(Place house and food on board.)** He urges them to remember to serve Yahweh, because He is the one who brought them out of Mitsrayim. And he lets them know that if they do what is good and right, then things will go well for them. And in the future, when their children ask them about all these things, they can tell them the story of how Yahweh brought them to their good land and gave them so much. And they can explain to their children about all the mitzvot that Yahweh gave them, to help them do the right things so that they will enjoy a good life. **(Point to group of Yisra'elites and children.)**

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!

