

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.

7 Species

Shalom children! Well, it has been a long time now since the Yisra'elites left Mitsrayim, and they are still on their journey towards the land of Yisra'el. I bet they were getting more and more excited about finally getting to cross the Yarden and go into the land that was promised to them! **(Place map of Yisra'el on board.)** But before Yahweh will let them go in, He has more things to teach them and more things that He wants to make sure they remember. **(Place Yisra'elites on board).**

The Yisra'elites have seen Yahweh do all kinds of amazing things for them, and now Mosheh is reminding them of all these things and telling them about all the blessings that they will receive in the land if they guard His commands. **(Place older Mosheh on board.)** He explains how Yahweh led them for 40 years in the wilderness, in order to make sure they were humble, and to see if they really wanted to guard His commands or not. Do you know what it means to be humble? **(Give children a chance to answer.)** It means that you don't think of yourself as being really great and powerful, but instead you remember that it is Yahweh who takes care of you and gives you everything.

Mosheh tells the Yisra'elites about how Yahweh allowed them to get hungry on their journey, and then fed them with manna. **(Place manna scene on board.)** He also reminds them that Yahweh has kept their clothing from getting ragged and has kept their feet comfortable by not allowing their sandals to wear out for the past forty years. **(Place ragged clothes and swollen foot with worn out sandals on board.)** Wow! They have been traveling all this time, and their feet didn't even get swollen! And can you imagine what it would be like to have your clothing last so many years? My clothes don't usually last that long!

Yahweh wants them to remember that He disciplines His people, just the way your parents might sometimes discipline you. If you do the wrong thing, your parents can correct you and show you the right way to behave. Yahweh is doing the same thing with the Yisra'elites. He wants to make sure they will respect Him, listen to Him, and do everything that He has told them to do.



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Mosheh then tells the people that by listening to Yahweh and following His instructions, they will be able to enjoy the land that He will give them for a new home. Think of the prettiest place you have ever been. What did it look like? Was there water? Were there mountains? **(Let children answer.)** Mosheh tells the Yisra'elites that the land they will get to live in will have beautiful blue water, with fountains and springs and streams flowing through the valleys and hills. He says that they will have plenty of food to eat so that they won't get hungry. And there will be stones made of iron, and also copper in the hills. **(Place land of Kena'an scene on board.)**

Mosheh also tells them about the food that they will enjoy in their new land. **(Place 7 species on board and point to each one as you read it.)** They will get to eat wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olive oil and honey. Mmm, that all sounds so delicious! We call these foods the 7 species, and even today they are all found in Eretz Yisra'el—the land of Yisra'el. **(Explain to children that olive oil comes from olives and that the honey came from dates.)**

The Yisra'elites are told that they shall bless and thank Yahweh for giving them so many good things and such good food to eat. Yahweh cautions them that when they are eating the good food, living in their lovely houses, spending time with their animals, and when they have lots of silver and gold, they must be careful not to forget about Yahweh. **(Place wealthy scene on board.)** Sometimes when we have lots of good things, we might not pay attention to how much Yahweh is doing for us, and Yahweh wants to make sure that doesn't happen. He wants the Yisra'elites to remember what it was like in Mitsrayim, so that they don't become ungrateful. He also wants them to remember all the things He did for them in the wilderness, like leading them past serpents and scorpions **(place serpent and scorpion on board)**, making water come out of a rock for them to drink **(place rock with water on board)**, and feeding them with manna **(point to manna scene)**. Yahweh wants this younger group of people to remember that He is providing all these things for them. He tells them that they are not so great and powerful on their own, but only because of His help. After all, He is fulfilling His promises that He made to their fathers.

Yahweh also gives them a warning that if they forget about Him and stop serving Him, then bad things would happen instead of good things. Do you think they will remember to love and serve Yahweh when they go into the land? I sure hope so! They still have some more instructions to listen to first, but we will save that for another time.

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!