

# 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.

## Recounting Events - Part 1

Shalom children! Today we are starting the fifth book of the Torah, Devarim. There are 5 books that make up the Torah, so that means we have reached the last book! In English, this book is called Deuteronomy, but in Hebrew, Devarim means 'words.' By this time, Mosheh was very old, and the first generation had died in the wilderness. Now the next generation of Yisra'elites were getting ready to go into the land of Kena'an to live there. **(Place map of Yis'rael on board.)** But before they could go in, Mosheh gave them a long speech describing all the events that had taken place since their fathers and mothers first left Mitsrayim 40 years earlier. He reminded them of all the commands, laws, and right-rulings that Yahweh had given them, so that they would remember how to be obedient and prosper in their new land, just as Yahweh promised.

**(Place older Mosheh and group of Yisra'elites on board.)**

Mosheh began his speech by announcing to the people that they had been at Mount Horeb long enough, and it was time for them to go and live in the land that Yahweh had promised to Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob. Well, by this time, there were lots and lots of Yisra'elites, and Mosheh explained that he would not be able to take care of that many people all by himself. He said if you could count the stars in the sky, there were just as many Yisra'elites, and that was a lot. **(Place stars on board.)** And Yahweh had said He was still going to add a thousand times more people than that!

Now, to make the job a little easier on Mosheh, he was told to choose wise men out of the tribes who would become the tribal leaders. **(Place leaders on board next to Mosheh.)** Mosheh put these men in charge of many things. Some were made leaders over thousands of people, some over hundreds of people, and some over 50 or even 10 people. **(Point to each leader of the different groups.)** There were also judges, who had the job of listening to people who disagreed about something and telling them how to handle the situation. **(Place judge scene on board next to Mosheh.)** Mosheh told these men to judge fairly and not to treat one person better than another, no matter how big or small the issue was.

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He also told them not to be afraid of anyone, because Elohim was the One who was really in charge of everything. If they had a hard time judging a case, Mosheh told them they could come to him for help.

**(Remove all items from board except Mosheh.)**

Mosheh went on to describe how, after hearing these instructions, the people left Horeb and traveled through the wilderness until they got to a place called Qadesh Barnea. Then, Mosheh recounted to the people the story of the 12 spies who were sent out to scout out the land of Kena'an and 10 of them returned with a bad report. **(Place 12 spies scene on board.)** You remember that their parents had been told to enter into the land, and Mosheh had sent out 12 men—one from each tribe—to go see the land before they went in. Only Yehoshua and Kaleb came back with a good report. **(Place fruit between Yehoshua and Kaleb on board.)**

The scouts went to the wadi Eshkol and found some delicious fruit there. They brought some of this amazing fruit back with them and reported that the land was good. **(Point to fruit between Yehoshua and Kaleb.)** But then they disturbed the people by talking about the huge people living there in big cities with very high walls. **(Place giant and buildings with tall wall on board.)** The people were afraid and grumbled, saying bad things about Yahweh. **(Place murmuring Yisra'elites on board.)** They didn't think He would protect them when they went into the land, so they refused to go in. They said, "There's no way we're going in there! We would never make it past those big people! It's too scary!"

**(Remove all items from board except Mosheh. Place Yehoshua and Kaleb on board.)**

Well, Mosheh reminded them that they should not be afraid, because Yahweh their Elohim would go before them and would fight for them, just as He had done when they were in Mitsrayim. He reminded them of how Yahweh had taken care of them in the wilderness too, just the way a father would take care of a son. **(Place father and son on board.)** Mosheh pointed out that by acting like that, they were showing that they did not trust in Yahweh, who had guided and protected them for all those years, with a cloud by day and with fire by night. **(Place pillar of cloud and fire on board.)**

Because of the evil things the people said, Yahweh pronounced to that generation that none of them except Kaleb and Yehoshua would get to see the good land. **(Point to Yehoshua and Kaleb on board.)** Not even Mosheh would get to go in because he disobeyed Yahweh in the incident at the rock **(place water from rock on board)**, but Yahweh would allow him to at least see it. Mosheh said, their little ones would be the ones who would go and live in the land. **(Place group of children on board.)**

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Mosheh went on to tell about what happened after the incident with the spies. The people were told to go back to the wilderness, but instead they decided that they would try to obey Yahweh's first command after all. They put on their battle gear and got ready to go. **(Place 3 men wearing battle clothes on board.)** Mosheh warned them that going up to fight was not a good idea, because Yahweh would not be with them anymore. But the people didn't listen and went up the mountain anyway. **(Place mountain on board.)** Just as Mosheh had said, the Amorites beat them in battle and chased them away. The people were sad, but Yahweh paid no more attention to them because they had disobeyed Him so much. **(Place sad Yisra'elites on board.)**

Sometimes we need to hear a story repeated so that we can learn a lesson. I think Mosheh told this story so that the next generation would remember to always follow and obey Yahweh to receive the blessings He promised them. Well children, we have come to the end of our story for today. Next week, we will hear Mosheh continue his speech with more of the story of the Yisra'elites and their travels in the wilderness. We will see you then for another exciting Little Gems story!