

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.

Be Fair & Show You Care

Shalom children! In this week's story, we will see what other right-rulings Yahweh has given to His people. He has all kinds of instructions He wants the Yisra'elites to know about - things like how to take care of their neighbors, how to dress, and how to treat animals. And not only does He want them to know about these right-rulings, He also warns His people to guard them and do them without fail! Remember, Yahweh wants to keep them safe and bless them, so knowing and following His commands will help them (and us!) to enjoy good, prosperous lives. Let's go over some of them together.

First, let's look at how Yahweh wants the Yisra'elites to care for their neighbors. They are told that if they see someone else's animal wandering off, or if they find something that belongs to somebody else, they should bring the animal or the item back to that person. If you lost something, wouldn't you want someone to bring it back to you when they found it? I would! So of course we should do the same for others. **(Place boy returning cat to girl on board.)** And if they see that a neighbor's animal has fallen down, Yahweh tells them that they should stop and help. **(Place ox in ditch on board.)** He also gives them instructions on the right way to lend money or to loan an item to somebody.

Now, if a Yisra'elite goes to a neighbor's vineyard, where lots of grape plants grow, he may eat from the plants but is not supposed to collect grapes in his basket. **(Place correct and incorrect way to collect grapes scene on board.)** He is also not allowed to cut a neighbor's grain but picking the top part off by hand is okay. **(Place correct and incorrect way to collect grain scene on board.)** If they are in their own fields collecting the harvest, they should not go back for any sheaves that they forgot or collect grapes that are behind them. These should be left for sojourners, orphans, and widows. **(Place sojourner, children and older woman on board.)**

Yahweh also instructs the people to:

- Pay their needy workers the same day that they did the work **(place silver coins on board)**
- Remember to be kind to sojourners, the fatherless, and widows **(point to sojourner, children and older woman on board)**
- Measure and weigh things honestly and accurately **(place scales on board)**
- Not hate Edomites or Mitsrites **(place Edomite and Mitsrite on board)**

Not only does Yahweh want His people to take care of others, He also wants them to be kind to animals. If a bird's nest is found, the mother has to be let go before the eggs can be taken. **(Place nest with eggs on board.)** An ox and a donkey should not be made to plough together **(place donkey and ox ploughing together on board)**; that could be awkward or difficult for them. And an ox should not have to wear a muzzle while it is working. **(Place ox with muzzle on board.)**

Yahweh doesn't want the people mixing up certain things. Different kinds of seeds should not be mixed either, so that the fruit that is grown in that vineyard **(place hand with mixed seeds and "X" on board)** stays the way it was intended to be. And if someone is a boy, he should not wear girls' clothing, and if someone is a girl, she should not wear boys' clothing. **(Point to children on board.)** Do you think Yahweh wants people to be happy with the way that He made them instead of pretending to be something else? Yahweh also doesn't want the Yisra'elites to wear pieces of clothing that are made with both wool and linen. **(Place mixed threads with "X" on board.)** They will have to pick one or the other. And since we are talking about clothing now, let's mention tzitziyot. These are the tassels that the Yisra'elites are commanded to wear on the 4 corners of their garments. **(Place clothing with tzitzit on board.)**

Safety is important to Yahweh, too. Do your parents ever give you rules to follow so that you won't get hurt? Well, Yahweh has some of these rules for the Yisra'elites. When they build a new house, they should put a parapet on the roof. **(Place house with parapet on board.)** This is like a small wall or guardrail that will help keep people from falling off the roof. You might have seen one on a building that has a flat roof where people can walk around on top. The people are also told that if someone gets a disease called leprosy, they should listen to what the priests and Lewites tell them to do. **(Place priest examining man with spots on board.)**

The Yisra'elites are told to make sure they remember to keep their promises. Hmm, let's think about this one for a minute. Have you ever promised your parents or siblings or friends that you would do something, but then you didn't follow through with it? Yahweh wants us to be true to our promises. If it is something that we won't really do, then we shouldn't be making that promise.

Finally, they get the instructions that certain people are not allowed to be in Yahweh's community for certain periods of time. **(Place person leaving camp on board.)** And they are reminded of how Amaleq attacked them and treated them so badly when they were coming out of Mitsrayim. They are told that they should try to erase the memory of Amaleq. **(Place Amaleqite on board.)**

Well, I think these are enough right-rulings for us to cover today. Were there any of these instructions that you already knew about? **(Let children answer and discuss.)** Were there any instructions we talked about today that you had never heard before? **(Let children answer again.)** There is always so much to learn when we sit and listen to Yahweh's instructions!

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!

