

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.

Becoming a Set-apart People

Shalom children! We are back with the Yisra'elites this week as they are preparing to enter the land. This time, Yahweh has instructions for them on how to present their first-fruits and tithes, and how to take care of Lewites, sojourners, the fatherless, and widows that live within their gates. **(Place people on board.)**

Do you remember some of the other stories that we have read this year that talked about tithing? Do any of you remember how much a tithe is? **(Give children a chance to answer.)** Yes, a tithe is a tenth. Today we are going to talk about the 3rd year tithe. But first, let's go over how Yahweh wants them to present their first-fruits.

Who wants to make a guess as to what first-fruits are? **(Let children answer.)** Well, if you had produce that you grew from plants in the soil, and you took out some of the first ones that grew, those would be first-fruits. **(Place first-fruits on board.)** Well, Yahweh says that those first-fruits should be put into a basket and taken to the place where He chooses to make His Name dwell. **(Place basket of first-fruits on board.)** Then the Yisra'elite who is bringing the basket goes up to the priest and tells him that he has come to the land that Yahweh promised to them. **(Place priest on board.)** The priest takes the basket and puts it before the altar. **(Place altar on board.)** Then the Yisra'elite is supposed to say a few things out loud to the priest to show appreciation and remembrance for all that Yahweh has given him. After his speech, the Yisra'elite then puts the first-fruits before Yahweh and bows down to Him. **(Place bowing man on board.)**

Yahweh wants the children of Yisra'el to rejoice because there is so much good that has come to them and the Lewites, and even to the sojourners who live among them. **(Place happy Yisra'elites on board and point to Lewite and sojourner.)**

Okay, so now let's talk about the 3rd year tithe. The Yisra'elites are taught that every 3 years, a tithe is supposed to go towards taking care of the Lewites, the sojourners, the fatherless, and the widows that are in their gates. **(Point to people on board.)** Once they have brought this tithe, Yahweh has some more things that He wants them to say out loud.



He wants them to declare that:

- They took the set-apart portion and gave it to the Lewite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow just as He told commanded **(point to people)**
- They did not break His commands or forget about them **(place tablets on board)**
- They did not eat any of it when they were sad and mourning **(place sad Yisra'elites on board)**
- They did not use any of it for something unclean **(place pot with dead mouse on board)**
- They did not give any of it for people who are dead **(place dead people on board)**
- They obeyed Yahweh **(point to tablets)**
- They did what Yahweh commanded them to do **(point to tablets)**
- And they want Yahweh to look down and bless them and bless the land that He has given them **(place land of Kena'an scene on board)**

Wow! Did you notice that when they present both the first-fruits and the 3rd year tithe, they have a list of things they are required to say? I wonder why Yahweh would want them to recite that big, long list. Do you think He wants them to make sure they remember these things and are doing all of it just the way that He said to do? Well, Mosheh tells all the people that these are in fact the things that Yahweh is commanding them to do, and that they need to guard them and do them with all their heart and their being. Wait a minute... all your heart and all your being? Where have we heard that before? In the V'ahavta! Can any of you say the line with me? **(Recite slowly.)** "And you shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might!" Yahweh reminds them that they are His people and His treasured possession, and so He wants them to guard all of these commands. And because they are His set-apart people, He has made amazing promises to them when they do. That is so exciting!

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!