

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.

Recounting Events – Part 2

Shalom children, and welcome to our story time! This is a very special time of the year for us because we have finally reached our last Torah portion! Remember, the first 5 books of the Bible are called the Torah. **(Place Torah scroll on board.)** Let's list the names of the books. First we have Bereishit, which means "in the beginning," and is also called Genesis. Then we have Shemot, which means "names," and is also called Exodus. Then Vayikra, which means "and He called," also known as Leviticus. Next is Bemidbar, which means "in the desert" or "in the wilderness." It is also called Numbers, because Yahweh did a lot of counting of the children of Yisra'el. And the 5th and final book of the Torah is Devarim, which means "words," or in English, Deuteronomy. Today's parsha story is the last one in Devarim.

We have been following along with the Yisra'elites and hearing stories of their journeys for a whole year now. In Genesis we learned about the creation of the world and the great flood. **(Place sun and moon and ark on board.)** We also heard of the travels of Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob. **(Place the 3 patriarchs on board.)** In Exodus we watched as Yahweh freed the Yisra'elites **(place slave scene on board)** and learned how they followed Mosheh **(place Mosheh on board)** through the wilderness in order to receive Yahweh's instructions at Mount Sinai. **(Place Mt. Sinai and tablets above mountain on board near Mosheh.)** In Leviticus we learned about the appointed times as well as the offerings that Yahweh wanted His people to observe. **(Place appointed times scene along with offerings scene on board.)** The book of Numbers is where we learned about the different censuses including the one for the Lewites and their duties for the Dwelling Place. **(Place Lewites on board.)** And in Deuteronomy we revisited many of the stories and lessons that Mosheh wanted the children of Yisra'el to remember. **(Place stories scenes on board.)**

And now the time has finally come for this generation of Yisra'elites to cross over the Yarden and enter into the land that Yahweh has promised to them. **(Remove all characters, and place land of Kena'an on board.)** Can you imagine how excited they must be? No more wandering around in the desert; they would finally be able to settle down and make homes for themselves!

Remember, Mosheh is very old now and will not be going into the land with the rest of the people. **(Place older Mosheh on board.)** But before he dies, he blesses the children of Yisra'el by speaking some special words about each tribe. Let's look at what he says about them and see how it compares with the blessings Ya'aqob had originally given to his sons. **(Remove all characters from board.)**

(Place each son of Ya'aqob with their banners on the board and their visual description next to them as you read about it. If your board is not large enough, then simply remove each character after their blessing.)

Re'uben - We'll start with Re'uben. Mosheh asked Yahweh to let Re'uben live, and not die, and for his men to be numbered. (Place group of men on board.) The very place that Mosheh was standing when he spoke this ended up being in Re'uben's territory. His father Ya'aqob had referred to him as boiling water. (Place pot of boiling water on board.)

Yehudah - Mosheh asked Yahweh to listen to Yehudah, to bring him to his people, and to help him fight against his enemies. (Place man chasing enemies on board.) This is the tribe that our Messiah Yeshua comes from. Ya'aqob had said that Yehudah was like a lion's cub. (Place lion cub on board.)

Now **Lewi** - The Tummim and the Urim belong to the tribe of Lewi. These are the 2 stones that went in a special pouch on the breastplate of the High Priest and helped them to determine Yahweh's will at certain times. (Place stones on board.) The tribe of Lewi was faithful in watching over and guarding Yahweh's covenant. (Place Lewites on board.) Many years earlier, when Ya'aqob had blessed the sons, he had not been very happy with Lewi because of their violence. (Place sword and sad emoji on board.)

Binyamin - This tribe is called Yahweh's beloved, and lives in safety, protected by Yahweh. Binyamin's land was located between Ephrayim and Yehudah, and this is where the wilderness tabernacle, and later on, the temple, was located. (Place Dwelling Place on board.) Ya'aqob had said that Binyamin was like a wolf. (Place wolf on board.)

Yoseph - Yoseph's land was especially blessed by Yahweh. There was wonderful fruit, and there were beautiful mountains and hills. (Point to land of Kena'an.) Yoseph was separate from his brothers. The effects of this blessing would be felt to the ends of the earth, with ten thousands of people from Ephrayim and thousands of people from Menashsheh. Remember how Ya'aqob adopted Ephrayim and Menashsheh as his own earlier in our stories? (Place Ephrayim and Menashsheh on board.) Well, when we talk about Yoseph, or when we talk about Ephrayim and Menashsheh, we are talking about the same group. Yoseph also got double the wealth when Ya'aqob split the blessing, and he was compared to part of a fruit-bearing tree. (Place fig tree on board.)

Zebulun and **Yissaskar** - These tribes would rejoice as they went out to be merchants and as they stayed home to study Torah or work on their ranches. (Place Zebulun and Yissaskar studying Torah scene on board.) They worked together to help each other out. This is what we call a partnership. Mosheh says that they would call people to the mountain and have treasures from the sand and the seas. Ya'aqob had described Zebulun as living at the seashore and Yissaskar as a strong donkey. (Place seaside scene and donkey on board.)

Gad - The tribe of Gad would be like a lion and have strong soldiers. (Place lion on board.) Their land was located outside of Kena'an and was some of the best crop land that there was. It was also close to the place where Mosheh died. Ya'aqob had said that Gad would raid the heel of those who raid him. (Place Yisra'elite chasing Mitsrite on board.)

Dan - Mosheh says that Dan was like a leaping lion cub. **(Place leaping cub on board.)** They would also be strong soldiers and live near the border, like Gad. Ya'aqob had said that Dan was like a serpent and a good leader. **(Place serpent and equal scales on board.)**

Naphtali - This tribe would have beautiful land that was good for growing things. **(Point to land of Kena'an.)** They would be satisfied and have lots of blessings. Ya'aqob had said that Naphtali was like a deer running loose. **(Place deer on board.)**

Asher - Asher would have land good for growing crops, especially olives, which were used to make olive oil. **(Place olive branch on board.)** They would also receive lots of blessings. They lived in an area known as Galilee. Mosheh said that they would have sandals of iron and bronze **(place sandals on board)**, and Ya'aqob had said that Asher would be wealthy. **(Place money bags on board.)**

Did you notice which brother is missing in the blessing? **(Give children a chance to answer.) (Place Shim'on on board off to the side.)** I wonder why Mosheh left Shimon out. I'm sure one day we will find out all about it.

After Mosheh gets done giving them these blessings, he reminds them that there is no one like Yahweh, who helps them and protects them. Yahweh is the one who saves them and provides for them. At last Mosheh goes up to Mount Nebo and looks over at the land where the Yisra'elites are going. **(Place Mt. Nebo on board, and place older Mosheh on top of the mountain.)** Can you imagine what he might have been thinking? After traveling all that way from Mitsrayim and witnessing Yahweh's miracles, he was finally looking at the land with his own eyes, the land that Yahweh had promised to the children of Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob. **(Place 3 patriarchs on board.)** Do you think he was sad that he would not get to go in with them? Or do you think he was just glad that they had finally made it? He was 120 years old at that time; that's older than anybody that I know, and he still had brightness in his eyes! **(Point to older Mosheh.)**

The children of Yisra'el were very sad when Mosheh died. **(Point to sad emoji.)** He was a great prophet who had spoken with Yahweh face to face. But now the people were ready to start looking to Yehoshua as their leader. **(Place older Yehoshua on board.)** Yehoshua was filled with Yahweh's wisdom, which means he was able to make good decisions about what was right. **(Place group of Yisra'elites on board next to older Yehoshua.)**

I know the Yisra'elites will have many more adventures with Yehoshua as their leader. As they enter into the land and begin to settle there, do you think they will remember to trust Yahweh and follow all of the instructions that He gave them? The answer to that question can be found in the other books of the Scriptures. But remember, the Torah is not just for them. It is for us too! And as we go through another cycle of Torah readings and feasts over the next year, we can reflect on all of these stories and on how far Yahweh has brought our people. There is truly no one like Him!

Now that we have finished an entire year of Torah readings we say, "Chazak, chazak, v'nit chazek" which means, "Be brave and be strong!" **(Have children repeat and say this phrase with you.)**

Well children, we have come to the end of our story for today. We will see you next time for another exciting Little Gems story when we start the parsha cycle all over again!