

Gem Seeking

LITTLE GEM 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.

And It's No Sacrifice

Shalom children! In today's parsha we'll be hearing about what will happen with Yishma'el, Abraham's first-born son from Hagar, who was the handmaid of Sarah. We will also look at the fulfillment of the promise that Yahweh made to Abraham and Sarah. Do you remember what promise Yahweh made to them? **(Allow children to answer.)** Yes, He said that they would have a son. Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? Was it easy?

Abraham was 100 years old when his son Yitshaq was finally born to him, and Sarah his mother was 90 years old. **(Place Abraham and Sarah with baby Yitshaq on board.)** Remember when heavenly messengers told Abraham that Sarah was going to have a baby? Remember how Sarah laughed to herself when she heard this? Well, Yitshaq's name means, 'He laughs'. On the 8th day, Yitshaq was circumcised as Elohim had told Abraham to do earlier with all the male babies. This was a sign of the covenant that would continue forever. **(Place circumcision scene on board.)**

When Yitshaq reached a certain age, Abraham and Sarah prepared a feast party for him. But during the celebration, his brother Yishma'el did something that made Sarah very angry. **(Place angry emoji on board.)** She saw Yishma'el mocking or making fun of Yitshaq. She told Abraham that she didn't want Hagar or Yishma'el to live with them anymore. She wanted them to go far away and never come back. At first Abraham was angry with Sarah about her demand, but Yahweh backed up Sarah. He instructed Abraham to listen to her, and assured Abraham that He was going to take care of Yishma'el, just as He had told him earlier. **(Remove angry emoji and place happy emoji on board.)**

Do you remember that Yahweh had already told Abraham that his son Yishma'el would become a nation, and that 12 princes would come from him? **(Place Yishma'el with nations scene on board.)** Well, Yahweh reminded him that Yishma'el would also become a great nation, because he was also Abraham's seed. As a good husband and loving father, Abraham personally made sure they were taken care of. He gave them bread and a skin of water for their journey in the Wilderness of Be'ersheba. **(Place bread and water skin on board.)**



I guess they used up their water pretty quickly, because during the journey Yishma'el grew faint and collapsed. Hagar laid her son Yishma'el under a bush to die, then she began to cry bitterly. **(Place Hagar and Yishma'el scene on board.)** I wonder if she forgot about the time, she was pregnant with Yishma'el and ran away from Sarah, and how Yahweh comforted her with the promise that Yishma'el would grow up to be a wild man. Remember that the name Yishma'el means, 'Yahweh heard'.

Well, Yahweh now heard the cry of Yishma'el. He asked Hagar, "What is the matter with you?" Can you imagine being Yahweh and telling people over and over what you are going to do, and still people don't believe you? He reminded Hagar that she needed to trust Him. He reassured her that Yishma'el would grow up to have a family and that nations would come from him. **(Point to Yishma'el with nations scene.)** When Hagar looked up, all of a sudden, she saw a well of water, right there in the middle of the wilderness! She quickly filled up the empty water skin for her son to drink. Yishma'el grew up in the wilderness of Paran and became an archer. **(Place archer on board.)** He also got married and had 12 children, just as Yahweh had promised. **(Add wife and 12 children on board.)**

(Remove all characters from board.)

Some time went by, then one day Yahweh tested Abraham's obedience right to the limit. He called out to him, and Abraham responded, "Here I am." In Hebrew you say, "Hineni." **(Place words on board.)** Can you say it with me? Yahweh told Abraham that He wanted him to take Yitshaq and offer him up as a burnt offering to Yahweh. I don't know about you, but I don't think any parent could imagine in their wildest dreams that they would ever have to do such a thing! But remember, Yahweh was testing him. He wanted to know whether Abraham would put Yahweh above his one and only son of promise.

So, the next day Abraham, Yitshaq and 2 servants set out on their journey. At one point Abraham told his servants to stay put, and that he and Yitshaq would continue on by themselves. As they were walking toward the mountain, Yitshaq noticed that they had everything they needed for the sacrifice except the actual animal. They had the knife, the fire and the wood. **(Place Yitshaq carrying wood and Abraham carrying knife and fire in his hand on board.)**

When Yitshaq asked his dad about this, Abraham responded that Yahweh Himself would provide the lamb for the offering. Well, Yitshaq must have trusted that everything would be okay, because he allowed his dad to bind him and put him on the altar on top of the wood. **(Remove characters from board and place Yitshaq on the altar on board.)** Then Abraham grabbed his knife. **(Place Abraham with knife in hand on board.)** Do you think that Abraham was sad? **(Place sad emoji on board.)** Do you think that Yitshaq was scared? **(Place scared emoji on board.)**

But just then Yahweh called out to Abraham from the heavens, "Abraham, Abraham!" Quickly Abraham responded, "Here I am." **(Place words on board.)** Yahweh told him not to hurt Yitshaq, because he had proven that he feared Elohim in his willingness to give up his only son.



Right then, Abraham looked over and saw a ram caught by his horns in a bush. Remember, Abraham had told his son that Yahweh would provide the animal, and that's exactly what Yahweh did! So now they had the ram to offer up as a burnt offering. **(Remove Yitshaq on altar from board and place ram on altar on board)**. Because of this Abraham called the name of that place, 'Yahweh Yireh,' which means 'Yahweh provides'. He had provided the animal for the sacrifice in place of Yitshaq. **(Place words on board.)**

Once again Yahweh told Abraham that his seed would be as the stars of the heavens and as the sand on the seashore. **(Place stars and sand scene on board.)** He said that his descendants would overcome their enemies. Yahweh also told Abraham that because he obeyed His voice, his seed was going to be blessed. **(Place Abraham with outstretched arms on board.)**

One thing we must always remember, children, is that Yahweh always keeps His promises, even when we can't see how He will do it. I know that Abraham and Yitshaq believed and trusted that everything would turn out for good; that is why they received the promises. I can't wait to see what happens to Yitshaq as we discover more about his life.

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!

