

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.

For Its Work, Work, Work Every Day and Every Night

Shalom, children! **(Place Yoseph on board.)** Remember how Yahweh used Yoseph to save his people from the great seven-year famine? Yoseph had been made a great ruler over all of Mitsrayim and had stored up grain ahead of time. His father Ya'aqob, along with his brothers and their families, were invited to live there in Mitsrayim, where they could be fed and not starve. **(Place Ya'aqob and 11 brothers on board.)** Seventy people of Ya'aqob household all came and settled there. Hmm...I wonder what happened to them all. Well, this week we are going to climb into our time machines and travel ahead 300 years, to check on how all the great-great-great-great grandchildren of Ya'aqob are doing in the land of Mitsrayim. **(Place pyramids on board.)** Everyone buckle your seat belts; are you ready?

...Oh my! They don't look very happy in Mitsrayim anymore. **(Place sad people on board.)** I see thousands of them, all bent over with heavy loads of bricks and straw. **(Place brick scene on board.)** And look over there. Can you see all those Yisra'elites pulling on ropes to move those huge building stones? **(Place slave scene on board.)** They're nothing more than ragged slaves! How could this have happened?

All we know is that during those 300 years, Yahweh blessed his people with children and more children, until the land of Mitsrayim became chock full of Yisra'elites! The Pharaoh who now ruled Mitsrayim didn't remember Yoseph at all. **(Place Pharaoh on board.)** He was scared of all those big, strong Yisra'elites living in his land, and he didn't trust them. Why, they might gang up with his enemies and take over the whole country!

So, Pharaoh thought up a scheme. Does anyone know what taskmasters are? That's right, they're like bosses. **(Place taskmasters on board.)** Only, they are mean bosses because the people that they boss are slaves. They yell at the slaves, and often slash their poor backs with whips. Well, Pharaoh rounded up a whole bunch of these nasty guys to make slaves out of the Yisra'elites. He put all the Hebrews to work hoeing and planting his wide fields and building huge cities for him with stone and brick. **(Place Hebrew woman working in field on board.)** It took many men to haul the huge stones into place, while others had to make bricks out of mud and straw, then lay them out to dry in the hot sun. **(Place brick making scene on board.)** They had to seal the bricks in place with a messy, pasty cement called mortar. The harder the Yisra'elites worked, the harder their taskmasters drove them. Let's close our eyes for a minute and make believe we are there. Can you hear angry shouting and cracking of whips? Maybe you'll even hear the groaning of the people. **(Point to taskmasters and sad people.)** Why, they are miserable!

(Remove all characters except for Pharaoh from board.)



But that wasn't all. Pharaoh came up with a plan that was even more horrible. **(Point to Pharaoh.)** He wanted to get rid of all the Hebrew boy babies as soon as they were born. Only the girl babies would be allowed to live. **(Place baby boy with 'X' and baby girl on board.)** That way the boys could never grow up and decide to fight against him. So, Pharaoh called for 2 young Hebrew ladies, named Shiphrah and Pu'ah. **(Place Shiphrah and Pu'ah on board.)** Can you say their names with me? SHEE-PHRAH and POO-WAH. Very good! Now, these 2 ladies had a special job; they were Hebrew midwives, or birth helpers. Pharaoh sternly commanded them that whenever they helped to deliver a Hebrew boy baby, they were to kill him. Only the girl babies would be allowed to live. **(Point to 'X' on baby boy.)** How awful!

But the Scriptures tell us that Shiphrah and Pu'ah feared Elohim. **(Place praying emoji on board.)** They knew that Pharaoh wasn't the great ruler he thought he was. No matter what Pharaoh might do to them, they were absolutely NOT going to kill a single one of Yahweh's children!

Yahweh loved these 2 women because of their faithfulness. When Pharaoh noticed that the Hebrew boy babies were still living and beginning to grow up, he called again for Shiphrah and Pu'ah. In an angry tone of voice, he asked them, "Why are the Hebrew boys not being killed?" The 2 ladies trembled. They had to think quickly to protect themselves and the Hebrew mothers. They told Pharaoh that the Hebrew women were a lot stronger than the women of Mitsrayim. "By the time we get there to help them give birth," they answered, "their babies have already popped out and are lying in the arms of their mothers!" **(Place mother with baby in her arms.)**

Pharaoh believed their story! Don't you think it's kind of funny that Pharaoh actually believed Shiphrah and Pu'ah, and let them go? Yahweh protected them from Pharaoh's anger. But more than that, He rewarded their faithfulness by giving each of them her own husband and household of children to raise. **(Place Shiphrah and Pu'ah with family on board.)**

Sadly, Pharaoh turned around and began sending his fierce soldiers into all the Hebrew neighborhoods to grab little boys and throw them in the river to drown. Only the little girls were allowed to live. **(Point to baby boy with 'X' and baby girl.)** In our next lesson, we will see how Yahweh the Elohim of Yisra'el took care of that situation!

Until then, let's remember that Yahweh will honor us when we do the right thing, even when it takes as much courage as it did for our friends Shiphrah and Pu'ah. **(Point to Shiphrah and Pu'ah with family on board.)** When we obey Yahweh's commands, He will protect us and will work out a wonderful plan for us, even if we can't see it just now. We must fear Him more than anyone or anything - even a powerful king like Pharaoh! **(Place praying emoji on board.)**

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!

