

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.

Seeing is Believing!

Shalom, children! Do you remember where we left our friend Mosheh last week? (**Place Mosheh on board.**) There he was on the mountain, in front of a bush that was on fire, but not burning up. (**Place burning bush scene on board.**) And Yahweh spoke to him out of the fire, calling him to go back to Mitsrayim and lead His people of Yisra'el out of slavery. Wouldn't you be scared? (**Place scared emoji on board.**) Mosheh sure was! He began to make all kinds of excuses to try and wiggle out of it. Let's go back to the mountain and see how Yahweh answered all of Mosheh's arguments.

For one thing, Mosheh wondered how on earth the slaves in Mitsrayim could ever believe him. How could they trust that their God had sent him to lead them out of slavery after all these years? After all, they hadn't seen a talking bush on fire. So, Yahweh decided it was time to show Mosheh a little action!

First, He told Mosheh to throw his shepherd's rod on the ground. (**Place rod on board.**) And what happened? Yikes! It turned into a great, big hissing snake! (**Remove rod from board and place snake on board.**) What would you do if you saw that? RUN! And that's just what Mosheh started to do. But Yahweh called him back and said to go ahead and pick up the snake by its tail. So, Mosheh took a deep breath, made a dive for the snake's tail, and...Wow. There in his hand was the trusty old shepherd's rod again! (**Remove snake from board and place rod on board.**) Next, Yahweh told Mosheh to slide his hand under his robe, near his chest, then pull it out. Oh yuck! Now it was snowy white and covered with a horrible skin disease. (**Place leprous hand on board.**) Then Yahweh said to put his hand back under his robe, and...Whew! When he pulled it out, it was perfectly normal again. (**Place restored hand on board.**) He told Mosheh to perform these 2 signs in front of the people, so they would know that Yahweh sent him. But just in case the people still wouldn't believe him, Yahweh told him a third sign: Mosheh could draw water from the big river in Mitsrayim, then pour it out on the land. When it hit the ground, it would turn into blood. (**Place red Nile River on board.**)

Was Mosheh convinced now? Nope, he was still squirming! He complained that he was really crummy at public speaking and would just make a mess of Yahweh's message. Even though Yahweh promised to give him the words to say, Mosheh still begged to be let off the hook. Please, couldn't Yahweh just send somebody else?

By this time, Yahweh's patience was wearing thin. So, He said, "Okay, if that's the way you're going to be, I will send your brother Aharon to meet you (**place Aharon on board**), and he'll be the one to speak to the people, since he's good at it. You'll be the one to hear what I want said, then you will tell Aharon, and he will speak My message." So, Mosheh still had to be in charge of the whole operation and didn't get away with any of his excuses.

(Remove all characters from board.)

So, Mosheh went back down the mountain and began packing up. (**Place Mosheh with rod on board.**) He took his wife, his 2 sons and his rod to perform the signs and got a blessing from his father-in-law before he left on his journey. (**Place Mosheh's wife and children on board.**) On the way, Yahweh began giving instructions. Mosheh was to call on Pharaoh to let the people of Yisra'el go, so they could worship Yahweh. He was to use his rod to perform the signs in front of Pharaoh, but Yahweh let him know that Pharaoh would not cooperate—no way! (**Place Pharaoh on board next to Mosheh.**) Mosheh was to warn Pharaoh that Yisra'el was Yahweh's own firstborn son, and if he would not let them go to serve Him, then Pharaoh's own son would be killed. Wow, that's not a fun message to have to say in front of such a powerful king!

Shortly after that, Mosheh spotted his brother Aharon coming up the mountain trail, right where Yahweh had said they would meet. (**Remove Pharaoh from board and place Aharon on board next to Mosheh.**) Just imagine; the 2 brothers had been apart from each other for 40 years! After they got all their hugging done, Mosheh shared with Aharon all that had taken place between him and Yahweh. And I'm sure Aharon told Mosheh not to worry, because the rulers of Mitsrayim who had wanted to kill him were all dead—just as Yahweh had said.

When they arrived in Mitsrayim, Mosheh and Aharon called all the elders of Yisra'el together and told them the amazing things that Yahweh was about to do for them. (**Place elders on board.**) Mosheh performed all the signs that Yahweh had given him, and the elders were astonished. They bowed down and worshiped Yahweh and believed His promise of deliverance.

So, things were off to a good start. But when Mosheh and Aharon approached Pharaoh with Yahweh's command to let the people go to worship Him, boy, was Pharaoh ticked off! He replied that he did not know this God named Yahweh and would NOT let them go! In fact, he accused the Yisra'elites of being lazy, and commanded his task-masters to stop giving the people straw for making bricks, as they had always done before. (**Place task-masters on board.**) Now they would have to go out into the fields to gather their own straw. (**Place straw gathering scene on board.**) Yet he still demanded that they make the same number of bricks every day as they did before! (**Place brick making scene on board.**) Of course, when the people couldn't make as many bricks each day, the foremen had them beaten. Some deliverance, the Yisra'elite leaders griped to Mosheh. (**Remove elders from board and place angry elders on board.**) Now Pharaoh would whip them even more, and work them to death, they said—all because Mosheh and Aharon had gone and riled him up. Then, what did Mosheh do? He turned around and accused Yahweh of bad planning, because he and Aharon had only caused more problems for their people!

Yahweh patiently let Mosheh blow off steam, then declared some amazing things to encourage him. **(Place caring emoji on board.)** He made Mosheh understand that He was the same Almighty One who had appeared long ago to his forefathers—Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob. **(Place patriarchs on board.)** He had promised to give their descendants their own land to live in, and now He was about to do it. Yahweh said He had heard the sorrowful cries of His people in Mitsrayim and had remembered His covenant with their fathers. Pharaoh could throw tantrums and stick his fingers in his ears all he wanted, but he was no match for the Almighty! He would buy them back from Pharaoh by performing awesome signs and judgments against all Mitsrayim **(place plagues scene on board)** and bring an end to the heavy burdens of the Yisra'elites. Even so, He wanted the 2 brothers to know that they would go through a very difficult time dealing with Pharaoh's stubborn heart. **(Place NO on board.)** Over and over again, Pharaoh would say, "No, no, no, I will not let them go". But Yahweh's power would go on breaking Pharaoh down until he finally said yes, and let the people go! **(Place YES on board.)**

(Remove all characters from board except for Mosheh and Aharon.)

When Mosheh and Aharon gave the people this uplifting message, the enslaved Yisra'elites were too weak to trust it. After all, they had been beaten down for so long, just like their fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers before them! And even though Mosheh was being obedient to Yahweh, he himself had a hard time trusting Yahweh at first. After all, he was already 80 years old, and his brother Aharon was 83! No chance of spending a nice old age kicking back in his recliner, snacking on pomegranates, figs, and dates! **(Place snack on board.)** But soon we will watch how Mosheh grew confident that he was Yahweh's chosen man to lead them all out of Mitsrayim, heading toward the wonderful land Yahweh had promised.

Aren't we sometimes like Mosheh? We all have times when doing what Yahweh says to do is pretty scary and overwhelming. Let's remember that no matter what He asks of us, when we do as He wants, our mighty Yahweh is ready to help us in wonderful ways that we can't even imagine! **(Place caring 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!