

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.

Grumble, Gripe, Complain

Shalom children! Today, let's meet 3 characters who are about to show up in our lesson. The first one is Master Grumble. **(Place Master Grumble on board.)** Is he fun to be around? Not much! And here's his twin brother, Master Gripe. **(Place Master Gripe on board.)** Do they ever visit your house? **(Allow children time to answer.)** Finally, let's meet Miss Complain. **(Place Miss Complain on board.)** No matter what happens, she sees the bad side of it and begins to squawk like a mad hen. **(Place mad hen on board.)** Let's look at 3 Bible stories that show us exactly what Yahweh thinks of them. Our stories take place soon after the children of Yisra'el were rescued from Pharaoh's army. They had begun their journey through the dry wilderness when...Well, let's look at our first story.

(Remove all characters from board.)

Have you ever felt as dry as a bag of chips? How would it feel if you had to keep walking for 3 whole days without a drop to drink? Well, that's how the children of Yisra'el felt. It began soon after the great miracle at the Reed Sea. One minute, the Mitsrian army was racing up behind them, ready to slaughter them all, and the next minute, the walls of water came crashing back into place and drowned every one of their enemies. **(Place Sea of Reeds scene on board.)** What did the people do then? Why, they danced and sang and jumped up and down, banging on tambourines and praising Yahweh at the top of their lungs. **(Place women dancing with tambourines on board.)** Wouldn't you? I would!

But when they woke up the next day...Oh no! They'd drunk up all the water they'd brought with them for the journey. What were they going to do? Well, they guessed that Mosheh would figure it out; he always seemed to have some trick up his sleeve! So, they packed up and trudged all day through the wilderness with nothing to drink. Not fun! But they still thought that maybe Mosheh would do another miracle, so they journeyed along a second whole day-thirsty and tired, growing grumpier by the minute, griping and complaining with every step.

(Place Master Grumble, Master Gripe and Miss Complain on board.)

On the third morning, Mosheh and Aharon woke up to the sound of babies wailing inside the tents, and the murmur of thousands of worried voices. **(Place sad people on board.)** "That crazy Mosheh had better do something quick!" they whispered. The people packed up with scowls on their faces and pushed on once more, exhausted and parched. **(Children can you make a scowl face? Show children how to make one.)** They plodded along for hours, ready to faint. But suddenly they heard shouts up ahead: WATER! WATER!



The news spread like wildfire, all the way to the end of their long line. Mommies scooped up their babies and little children and ran ahead. Donkeys and oxen had to be held back. Thirsty herds of cattle, sheep and goats became hard to control. Mosheh went in front of them, finally stopping at the edge of a great, deep pool of water. **(Place water scene on board.)** But he could sense something was wrong; the animals were acting nervous. A few men knelt down and tasted the water, then quickly spat it out. Ptooeey! Ick! "Poison!" they yelled. "Don't drink; the water is bitter!"

By now, the people had had enough. They got burning mad and turned on Mosheh, shouting, "So, what are we supposed to drink? We're all going to die!" **(Remove sad people and place angry people on board.)** But Mosheh knew what to do: he cried to Yahweh for help, and Yahweh pointed him to a beautiful tree nearby. **(Place palm tree on board.)** His men quickly cut it down and brought it to Mosheh at the water's edge. Mosheh lifted it high and heaved it into the water with all his might. "Now try the water," he told his men. And what did they find? That's right! The bitter water had become clean and sweet. All the people drank to their heart's content and said, "Ahhh!" Children, let's say it with them: "A-H-H-H!" **(Remove angry people and place happy people on board.)**

Again, Yahweh spoke through Mosheh and Aharon, saying to the people that He would be testing them, to prove whether or not they really trusted Him. If they would do their very, very best to obey His voice and do what was right in His eyes, then He would always be their Healer, protecting them from the plagues and diseases they'd seen Him do to the Mitsrites. Then He led them to a beautiful oasis in the desert, called Elim. Can you say, "Eh-LEEM?" It means "gods." Elim had 12 springs of refreshing water, and 70 swaying, green palm trees to provide fruit and shade. **(Place Elim scene on board.)** Do you think Yahweh wanted to love on His people, to give them rest and encourage them to trust Him in everything? I sure think so!

(Remove all characters from board.)

But their relief didn't last long. In our second story, some weeks have gone by. The people had stayed on the move until at last they came to the Wilderness of Sin, which means 'thorn.' By now, their old, dry bread was gone, and their tummies were rumbling. Now, when you kids get tired and hungry, do Master Grumble and Master Gripe show up? Uh-huh, they sure do. Now, you wouldn't expect thousands of Yisra'elite grownups to listen to Master Grumble and Master Gripe, but that's what they did. **(Place Master Grumble and Master Gripe on board.)** They whined that this was way worse than Mitsrayim, where they'd enjoyed cooked meat and warm, fresh bread! And that's when Miss Complain invited herself to the party. **(Place Miss Complain on board.)** She got them to accuse Mosheh of bringing them out into the wilderness just to make them die of hunger. They even complained that it would be better if they'd all been killed back in Mitsrayim!

By now you're thinking what silly people they were, acting like a bunch of two-year-olds! Hmm, do we ever act like that? But once more, Yahweh was patient with them. He appeared in a bright cloud, saying to Mosheh and Aharon that the people would eat meat that very evening. And in the morning, He would rain down bread straight from heaven, and they would all be filled. But Yahweh warned them that He Himself was listening to every word they said. When they grumbled against their leader, Mosheh, they were really grumbling against the Almighty who had sent him! Yahweh would show them that He was their one and only Elohim; He was ready and able to help them through every test.



Now, has anyone here ever tasted quail? **(Place quail on board.)** They're plump little birds that can be roasted like chickens—very tasty. That afternoon, huge flocks of quail fluttered just above their heads. The birds began to fall to the ground, until they covered the whole camp. Everyone ran to gather them up, and that night they had the biggest backyard barbecue you ever saw! The next morning, the ground all around their camp was covered with tiny, white things, like frost on the ground. **(Place manna scene on board.)** They were round like seeds, sparkling in the dew. It tasted kind of sweet, like graham crackers, and when the sun grew hot, it melted. No one had ever seen anything like it, so they called it "manna," which is a short way of saying, "What-on-earth-IS-this-stuff?" Yahweh said for them to gather one portion per person for 5 days, and NOT to keep any leftovers till the next day. But some of them did try to keep manna overnight, and when they got up in the morning, Eeww, did it stink! And, it was loaded with worms—yuck! **(Place manna with worms on board.)** Yahweh was not at all pleased with them, and neither was Mosheh. **(Place angry emoji on board.)**

Now, the 6th day of manna would be different. On that morning, they needed to collect a double portion for each person **(place 2 manna portions on board)**, and keep their 2nd portion overnight, because...Well, the next day would be what? The Sabbath, right? Of course, there would be no gathering on Shabbat! Sure enough, when they woke up on Sabbath morning, the manna smelled fresh—not a single worm. But some were greedy; they had gobbled up all their manna from the 6th day, and then disobeyed Yahweh by going out early on the Sabbath to grab more. By now, their Elohim was really unhappy with them, and Mosheh, too. Still, Yahweh faithfully fed His people daily manna—for 40 whole years, in fact. He told Mosheh to fill a pot with it, then to store it in the ark of the Witness as proof that Yahweh always takes care of His children. **(Place ark of the witness and pot of manna on board.)**

In our final story, we find the children of Yisra'el encamped in a place called Rephidim, where they ran out of water all over again. Even though there was no water there, they remembered how Yahweh had made the bitter water sweet, and cheerfully waited for Him to provide for them once again. Oh. Umm... Did I get something wrong? Sorry to say, it did NOT go that way. In fact, the people complained that Yahweh wasn't with them at all! **(Place angry people on board.)** Again, they accused Mosheh of leading them out into the wilderness to make them die of thirst. This time, they got so angry that they were about ready to stone him! But Mosheh called to Yahweh for help, and guess what happened? Yahweh told him to pick up his rod and call the elders to stand with him in front of a giant rock. **(Place Mosheh beside rock with rod in his hand scene on board.)** Then, as all the people watched, he was to strike the rock with his rod. And what happened? That huge rock split open with a loud crack, and fountains of clear water gushed out, until the dry valley was filled with all they needed. **(Place rock splitting with water pouring out scene on board.)** But Mosheh was sad because of all their bitter striving with him. He named that place Mara, which means bitter, and Meribah, which means to fight against Elohim.



In these 3 stories, we see how disappointed Yahweh was with His grumbling children. **(Place sad emoji on board.)** He wants His people to learn what a generous and kind ruler He is, and that He is King over absolutely everything! The ones He picks to lead us are put in place for our own good. His leaders represent His authority, and if we rebel against them, we are fighting HIM! Later we'll see how that generation never made it into the Promised Land. They didn't learn that it just doesn't pay listen to Master Grumble, Master Gripe and Miss Complain. **(Point to Master Grumble, Master Gripe and Miss Complain.)** Are you ready to kick those characters out? I sure am! **(Remove Master Grumble, Master Gripe and Miss Complain from board.)** Let's remember the lessons from these 3 stories and strive to have an attitude of gratitude!

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!

