

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.

Can I Get Some Help Here?

Shalom children! **(Place Mosheh on board.)** By now we all see what a great leader Mosheh was, and how Yahweh often gave him miracles to perform for the people of Yisra'el, so that they would put their trust in Him as their one and only Elohim. But today we are going to look at 2 events that show how even a great man like Mosheh needed the people Yahweh provided to help him in his work.

The first event happened during an attack by a people known as Amaleqites. **(Place Amaleqites on board.)** How many of you remember the Amaleqites? They were the fiercest, nastiest people you'd ever want to meet, and they had no respect at all for Elohim. Yahweh was already angry with them, because of the time they had sent warriors to sneak up and attack the people of Yisra'el from behind, where the weakest ones were traveling, still tired and weary after their escape from Mitsrayim. But now the Amaleqites were sending more armies to crush Yisra'el and then carry off all the wealth and riches that the Mitsrites had given to them before they set out. Now, everyone raise your hand if you think Yahweh was going to let the Amaleqites get away with that! What, no hands? You're absolutely right. Let's see what happened.

When the Yisra'elites saw the Amaleqite army coming, Mosheh sent Yehoshua to lead their men out to fight with them in a large valley. **(Place Yehoshua and Yisra'elite army on board.)** Meanwhile, he and Aharon, along with a trusted man named Hur, climbed to the top of a hill overlooking the battlefield. **(Place hill with Mosheh, Aharon and Hur on board.)** In his hand, Mosheh held his special staff - **(point to staff)** the same one that Yahweh had given him to do all the miracles in Mitsrayim, and to part the Red Sea. As they looked down on the battlefield, they could hear the clash of swords and loud yelling. Mosheh knew this would be a fight to the death. He raised the staff high over his head and held it there for a long time. **(Remove hill with Mosheh, Aharon and Hur from board and place Mosheh with staff high on board.)** As he did, he saw that Yahweh made the army of Yisra'el strong, and they killed man after man of the enemy. **(Place Yisra'elites winning battle scene on board.)**



Now, has anyone here every tried to hold their arms up for 3 minutes? How about 15? Hard, isn't it? You just can't do it forever. Well, Mosheh's arms got tired, too. His staff began to sink lower and lower, until he just couldn't hold it up anymore. **(Remove Mosheh with staff high from board and place Mosheh with staff low on board.)** But then he looked, and...Oh, no! The Amaleqites were starting to beat back his men. **(Place Amaleqites winning battle scene on board.)** The Yisra'elites were losing! Mosheh grunted and lifted the rod up over his head once again, and...Yay! Yisra'el's army was strong again, just as before. **(Remove Mosheh with staff low from board and place Mosheh with staff high on board.)** But soon Mosheh's arms began to fall again; once more, Yisra'el's men began to lose ground. **(Remove Mosheh with staff high from board and place Mosheh with staff low on board.)**

I'm sure Mosheh prayed for strength, and bravely lifted the staff a third time. But soon his arm-muscles began to tremble, and again, down came the staff. His legs were aching, too, and his back hurt. So, down went more Yisra'elite warriors. Something had to be done! Aharon and Hur saw what was happening and sprang into action. They moved a flat stone nearer for Mosheh to sit on. Mosheh sat down and lifted his rod one more time, with Aharon on one side of him and Hur on the other. **(Remove Mosheh with staff low from board and place Aharon and Hur raising Mosheh's arms on board.)** The 2 men propped up his arms all afternoon until the sun went down, and the Amaleqites all lay dead on the ground. Hooray! The men of Yisra'el had conquered a fierce army by the edge of the sword—all by the power of Yahweh, who provided 2 good men to help Mosheh hold up his rod. Yahweh then made a promise that the Amaleqite nation would come to nothing, so that no one would even remember them. Mosheh then built an altar to Yahweh, and called it "Nissi." **(Place altar on board.)** Let's say it together: NEE-see. It means, "Yahweh is my refuge." What an amazing victory!

(Remove all characters from board.)

Now let's look at the 2nd event where Mosheh needed help. It all started with Mosheh's father-in-law, Yitro, the priest of Midyan. **(Place Yitro on board.)** Word had gotten out about Yahweh's great acts of judgment against mighty Mitsrayim, and how Mosheh had done the miracles of Elohim, until King Pharaoh was forced to let his whole Yisra'elite workforce go free! And now these thousands of free Yisra'elites were out in the wilderness, going wherever their God Yahweh was leading them. Well, Yitro could hardly wait to hear every detail from Mosheh's own mouth. He packed up his daughter Tsipporah—Mosheh's wife - along with their 2 sons, and off they went to look for Mosheh in the desert lands. **(Place Mosheh's wife and 2 sons on board next to Yitro.)** With a couple million people camping around him, I don't think Mosheh was too hard to find, do you?

When Yitro arrived, Mosheh threw his arms around them **(place Mosheh on board)**, then settled down to tell his father-in-law all about the amazing things Yahweh had done. **(Remove Mosheh's wife and 2 sons from board and place Mosheh next to Yitro on board.)** Boy, did Yitro get an earful! He was overjoyed to learn of the blessings Yahweh had given his son-in-law and confessed that there was no other god or power mightier than Yahweh, Elohim of Yisra'el. Yitro then offered burnt offerings and many other gifts to show honor and thanksgiving to Yahweh. **(Place burnt offering and gifts on board.)** Mosheh invited all the tribal leaders of Yisra'el to come and share a delicious meal together with Yitro, in the presence of Elohim. **(Place elders on board next to Mosheh and Yitro.)** I'm sure it was a wonderful evening!



(Remove all characters from board.)

(Place sun and Yitro on board.) The next morning, Yitro woke up to the sound of lots and lots of Yisra'elites crowding together at the door of Mosheh's tent. **(Place Mosheh inside tent with people in line on board.)** When he peeked out, why, he could hardly believe the long lines of them, all coming with the problems they were running into as they tried to figure out how things should be done the way Yahweh wanted. As he listened, Yitro just shook his head. One dad wanted to let his kids hold a frisbee contest on Shabbat. **(Place frisbee on board.)** After all, it wasn't work, was it? Of course, Mosheh said it was NOT a good idea. A widow came, all mad because her youngest son had been disrespectful to her. **(Place angry mom and angry son on board.)** What should his punishment be? It took Mosheh a while to settle her down. The next one in line was a shepherd, who had given a neighbor 5 pounds of lamb in exchange for 5 pounds of fine goat cheese. But the goat cheese was moldy and stank. **(Place moldy cheese on board.)** Not fair! On it went, all day and into the night, until Mosheh fell into bed totally wiped out.

(Remove all characters from board.)

(Place sun, Yitro and Mosheh on board.) The next morning at breakfast, Yitro said to Mosheh, "My son! Why are you making it so hard on yourself? You are trying to handle every single question and problem for this whole camp—many thousands of families. You will completely wear yourself out!" Mosheh explained to his father-in-law that this was his job, to help the people understand how the Torah commands applied to every-day life. Giving right-ruling was the best way to teach them what Yahweh expected from His covenant people. "Ah," said Yitro, "but surely there are other good men here who honor Elohim and want the truth to rule over Yisra'el! Find unselfish men who hate unfairness and bribery and let them share your load. **(Place structure pyramid on board.)** Choose a ruler for every thousand of them, then set another for every hundred, then another one over every fifty, and then one over every ten."

Now, Mosheh wasn't too proud to welcome good advice when he heard it. He paused for a second, then broke into a big smile. "Why, you're right, Dad! I never thought of that," he said. And that's just what Mosheh did: he set one man over every thousand men, another over every hundred, then one to rule each group of fifty, and finally one for each ten. The leaders he chose were good men, and the whole plan worked beautifully. These men decided all the small matters, which were a lot. That way, Mosheh only had to deal with hardest ones, and got to bed on time almost every night. **(Remove sun from board and place moon on board.)** Yitro was happy to see that his advice was working so well, and at last it was time to say goodbye and head back to his own country.

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!

