

# 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.

### Evil Report

Shalom children! We are back with the Yisra'elites today as they are camped in the Wilderness of Paran, right near the land of Kena'an. Now, Yahweh had promised to give the land of Kena'an to the Yisra'elites, so He told Mosheh to send men to spy out the land and see what it was like. Each tribe was to send 1 man to go on this journey, for a total of 12 spies. **(Place 10 spies along with Yehoshua and Kaleb on board.)** One of these men was Yehoshua. **(Point to Yehoshua.)** He was from the tribe of Ephrayim. Another one of the spies was named Kaleb, and he was from the tribe of Yehudah. **(Point to Kaleb.)**

Mosheh instructed the 12 spies to enter the southern part of the land and continue to the mountains, so they could return and report what it was like. **(Place mountain on other side of board.)** It was the time of year that grapes were ripening, so Mosheh told them to be strong and to bring back some fruit from the land.

So the men set out on their journey to see the land. **(Move 10 spies along with Yehoshua and Kaleb to the mountain.)** When they arrived, they saw some descendants of Anaq living there, who were very big and tall. **(Place 2 giants on board near mountain.)** They left from there in a hurry. **(Remove 2 giants from board.)** Next they walked to a valley named Eshkol where they found huge fruit there. They cut down clusters of grapes so huge that they had to carry them on poles and gathered pomegranates and figs also. **(Place 2 men holding grapes on pole, man holding basket of pomegranates, and man holding basket of figs on board.)**

**(Remove mountain, 2 men holding grapes on pole, man holding basket of pomegranates, and man holding basket of figs on board.)**

After 40 days of spying out the land, the men returned from their trip. **(Move spies and Yehoshua and Kaleb to other side of board.)** When they arrived, they reported their findings to Mosheh and Aharon, and to all the children of Yisra'el. **(Place Mosheh, Aharon, and a group of Yisra'elites on board.)** They said that the land was good, a place of abundant fruit. They said, "We went to the land where you told us to go. Look, here is just a sample of the fruit that we found. The land is flowing with milk and honey!"

**(Place man holding basket of pomegranates, man holding basket of figs and 2 spies holding grapes on pole on board.)**



You would think they would know by now that Yahweh was on their side, and that they didn't need to be afraid of the people living in the land. But look what they said next! In front of all the Yisra'elites the spies moaned, "The cities there have walls, and the people there are strong! **(Place walled city on other side of board.)** We saw the descendants of Anaq living there, and also the Amaleqites, the Hittites, the Yebusites, the Amorites, and the Kena'anites. They are stronger than we are; there's no way we could win a battle against them! They are giants - so big that they made us look like grasshoppers!" **(Place 2 giants on board.)**

**(Remove walled city and 2 giants from board.)**

But one of the spies, Kaleb, told the other spies to be quiet. He believed Yahweh was with them, and they could take possession of the land. But it was no use trying to convince the people of that. The Yisra'elites cried and cried. **(Place sad and crying Yisra'elites on board.)** They started complaining that it would have been better if they had died in Mitsrayim or in the wilderness. "In fact," they said, "We should just go back to Mitsrayim right now. Let's find a new leader who will take us back there." **(Place angry and grumbling Yisra'elites on board.)**

Well, this attitude did not make Mosheh and Aharon happy, and it certainly did not make Yahweh happy either. Mosheh and Aharon fell on their faces **(remove Mosheh and Aharon and replace with prostrate Mosheh and Aharon on board)**, and Yehoshua and Kaleb tore their clothing **(remove Yehoshua and Kaleb and replace with Yehoshua and Kaleb with torn clothing on board)**, which is how people used to show that they were really sad. Yehoshua and Kaleb told the people that the land was good, and that Yahweh could bring them into the land and give it to them. They told the people not to be afraid. But the people actually wanted to kill them for speaking like that!

**(Remove prostrate Mosheh and Aharon and Yehoshua and Kaleb with torn clothing from board.)**

Well, in no time at all Yahweh showed up in the Tent of Meeting. He was very, very unhappy. **(Place sad emoji on board.)** He had done so much for the Yisra'elites, but they still did not trust Him. He said that He no longer wanted those complaining Yisra'elites to be His people. But Mosheh begged Yahweh to reconsider. **(Place Mosheh on board.)** He was concerned that it would look to other nations like Yahweh was not powerful enough to bring His people to the land that He promised them.

Because Yahweh is patient, loving, and forgiving, He agreed to forgive the people. **(Remove sad emoji from board and place caring emoji on board.)** But He would still have to punish them for their disobedience. There were many, many who had seen all the great things Yahweh had done to free them from Mitsrayim and lead them safely through the wilderness, yet they still complained and disobeyed Him.

Because they would not believe Him, Yahweh decreed that none of them would be allowed to enter and possess the land He had promised them. Only Yehoshua and Kaleb would be allowed to enter, because they had a different kind of spirit in them - an obedient spirit. **(Place Yehoshua and Kaleb on board.)**



Yahweh told Mosheh to turn the people back the next day and travel into the wilderness by the Way of the Sea of Reeds. He decreed that all the registered people age 20 and older would die in the wilderness because of their grumbling. They would have to wander in the wilderness for 40 more years - a year for each day that they spied out the land. During that time, their little ones would grow up; so it was their children who would finally get to go in and live in the land that they themselves had rejected. **(Place land of Kena'an on board.)**

As for the spies who had brought the bad report about the land, they got sick and died, while Yehoshua and Kaleb remained alive. **(Remove 10 spies from board.)** When Mosheh went to tell the Yisra'elites all that Yahweh had decreed against them, they were sorry that they had sinned. **(Move Mosheh next to sad Yisra'elites.)** Now they wanted to muster their fighting men and go take the land, as Yahweh had first told them to do. Mosheh warned them that it was a bit late for that, because Yahweh was not with them anymore. But they decided to go up to the mountain top anyway, without Mosheh and without the ark of the Witness. Just as Mosheh expected, the people who lived there beat the Yisra'elites, because they had not listened to Yahweh or to Mosheh. **(Place inhabitants of land prevailing over Yisra'elites on board.)** One important thing to learn from this story children, is that we should always listen to Yahweh, no matter what!

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!

