

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.

Offerings in the Land

Shalom children! Well, the dedication ceremony for the Levites is over, and now they are all ready to help the priests to serve Yahweh in His Set-apart Place. **(Place 3 sons of Lewi on board.)** The bronze altar has been kept hot and ready, just as Yahweh commanded. **(Place bronze altar on board next to 3 sons of Lewi.)** Let's pretend we are right there, watching what happens next.

Oh, look! Here come some Yisra'elites, bringing their animals to the priests. It's a good thing Yahweh gave the priests His instructions through Mosheh, so they understand exactly the way Yahweh wants everything done! Okay...I see some strong young bulls being led along by a man and his wife. **(Place bulls and couple bringing offering scene on board.)** What's she carrying? It looks like a basket of flatbread and a flask of oil. There are more people coming; can you hear the sheep bleating? **(Place sheep and people with offerings scene on board.)**

You see, Yahweh told Mosheh about each kind of offering and its purpose, and exactly what kind of animal and grain offering to bring for it. Many offerings were commanded so they could be forgiven for their sins. **(Place praying emoji on board.)** Other offerings were given freely - perhaps to seal a solemn promise, or to show Him thanks for some wonderful thing He had done. **(Place deliverance emoji on board.)**

Do any of you think it was mean to kill all those animals for sacrifice? Remember, today we eat slaughtered animals all the time. We don't think about it much, because we buy our hamburger or chicken in nice, neat packages at the supermarket. But back then, in order to eat, the people had to raise the animals and then slaughter them by hand. And a farmer who owned lots of cattle and goats and sheep was considered a very rich man. **(Place wealthy man on board.)** When you brought an animal to Yahweh as a sacrifice, you were giving Him something very valuable.

In fact, Yahweh said that these offerings made by fire were a sweet smell in his nostrils. **(Place offering on board.)** A sweet smell? Why, the whole place must have smelled like a steakhouse. Now, that might be okay if you're really hungry - but sweet? I don't think so! You see, Yahweh wanted them to know that it wasn't his nose that smelled these offerings. No, He was smelling them with His heart. It was sweet when He could feel the love of the people as they came to be forgiven of their sins, and to show Him their thankfulness. Their offerings at the Tent of Meeting made a way for them to be forgiven and to draw close to Yahweh. This showed Him that they wanted to be friends with Him, and to promise their best effort to do everything that He told them. **(Point to deliverance emoji.)**



Here's another very cool thing. Yahweh made a law that any strangers among them were required to offer exactly the same sacrifices, just like the Yisra'elites. **(Place foreigners on board.)** Maybe you're wondering where all these strangers came from. Well, who remembers what happened at the first Passover, when they were driven out of Mitsrayim? Not only did the Yisra'elites escape, but also Mitsrites and people from other nations who had survived those terrible plagues. Now some of them wanted to belong to the most powerful Elohim of all. So, they joined the Yisra'elites and came out of Mitsrayim to serve Yahweh. **(Place Yisra'elites on board.)**

But do you think the Yisra'elites were comfortable with so many strangers hanging out with them? After all, these people talked with funny accents, and they didn't know much about Yahweh at all. Worst of all, they had been worshiping idols all their lives. **(Place idol with 'X' on board.)** But now that they wanted to join Yahweh's people and serve the Elohim of Yisra'el, Yahweh decided to give the strangers a fair shake. They would all have to obey the same commands as the Yisra'elites, and bring the exact same sacrifices. If you were one of the strangers, you would follow the same laws and get the same rewards for obedience as the Yisra'elites got. What a loving Elohim!

This next law is a hard one. Did you know that there is a kind of sin so rotten that He didn't even want a sacrifice from that person? **(Place defiant person on board.)** If a person was bitter and angry against Yahweh for something, he might disobey Torah just to get back at Him. The Bible calls this a defiant attitude, and there was no sacrifice for it. Yahweh said that the one who sinned defiantly had to be kicked out of the camp. He simply didn't want such people around anymore. Out there, all alone in the wilderness, they would have lots of opportunity to regret doing it, wouldn't they? **(Place sad person outside camp on board.)**

Let's talk about one more sacrifice. Now, we already know about the offerings they had to bring because they felt bad about doing wrong. Let's say you told a lie about someone you didn't like, just to get them in trouble. Then everyone found out it was not true at all. Boy, would your face turn red! Yahweh wasn't letting you get away with it, and to be forgiven, you'd have to bring a burnt offering to the Dwelling Place. But sometimes Yahweh called for a sin offering. This was for times when you broke the Law by mistake. Maybe you were visiting a friend on the other end of the camp, and suddenly you noticed it getting dark, and heard all the mothers calling their kids home for Sabbath dinner. You rushed home at a dead run, but got scolded for being late for your family's Sabbath prayers. You didn't mean to be late, but you forgot to guard the Sabbath strictly, the way He commanded. You had to bring a sin offering of a male goat in order to be forgiven and get right with Yahweh. **(Place male goat on board.)** Is Yahweh serious about us keeping His commandments? You bet He is!

As you keep on learning about the Torah, you will see how Yahweh's offerings and sacrifices show us even more wonderful things about Him. He is our very own Elohim and wants us to be truly sorry for our sins so that we can be close to Him again. **(Point to praying emoji.)**

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!

