

# 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.

### Yahweh Chooses His Servants

Shalom children! Remember in our last story we learned about a Lewite named Korach as well as 2 men from the tribe of Re'uben named Abiram and Dathan who approached Mosheh and Aharon with 250 of the leaders to question their authority? **(Place Korach, Abiram, Dathan and group of men on board.)** Remember how that didn't end so well for them? Today we are going to witness an event where Yahweh shows all the leaders whom He chooses to serve Him in the Dwelling Place. He was going to prove that Aharon was His chosen and anointed High Priest and shut those rebels up once and for all.

So, He told Mosheh to arrange a very interesting test. Now, Yahweh's test was nothing you or I would ever think of. Each of the twelve tribal leaders was to bring Mosheh a rod. **(Place Mosheh and 12 leaders with rods on board.)** Mosheh told the people that the rod belonging to the man Yahweh had chosen to be High Priest would actually bud. Wow - Yahweh was going to make an old, dry staff break out with living blossoms! Have you ever seen anything like that? Nope, me neither.

In Bible times, a man often used a strong, wooden staff to support him as he walked. The rod of a tribal leader might have special carvings or decorations to show that he was an important man. As each leader presented his rod, Mosheh marked the man's name on it and handed it back to him. **(Place 11 rods with names on board.)** Mosheh took Aharon's rod, too, since Aharon was head of the tribe of Lewi. **(Place Aharon's rod on board.)** He marked Aharon's name on it, just as he'd done with all the other rods. **(Remove Aharon's rod and replace with Aharon's rod with name.)** Then he collected all 12 of the rods and laid them inside the Tent, right in front of the ark of the Witness - inside the Most Set-apart Place - on the spot where Mosheh always stood when Yahweh spoke with him.

The next morning, Mosheh hurried to the Tent of Meeting, and what do you think he saw? That's right! One of the rods was covered all over with beautiful almond blossoms. **(Replace Aharon's rod with name with Aharon's budded rod.)** Can anyone guess whose rod it was? Of course - it was Aharon's rod. And not only did it have blossoms on it, but ripe almonds, too.

Now, that's a real miracle, because everyone knows the blossoms come first, and then later you get the fruit. Aharon's rod had them both together—how cool! And what about the other leaders? I'll bet their jaws all dropped when they saw Aharon lift up his beautiful, budding staff. **(Place Aharon with budded rod on board.)**



Mosheh gave back the plain, old rods to the other leaders, but Yahweh told him to take Aharon's blooming rod and to set it before the ark of the Witness, as a sign against the rebels. **(Place ark of the Witness on board next to Aharon's budded rod.)** If they grumbled against His leadership again, they would die.

Yahweh sure clamped their mouths shut, didn't He? Not only were they wrong; they had insulted the Almighty Elohim! Whoa, now they were really scared. The rebels realized that they could die because of their sin and were afraid to come anywhere near the Set-apart Place. **(Place scared people on board.)** And Yahweh agreed with them. He made a new rule: no one but the priests could come near the Set-apart Place or the bronze altar ever again. The priests were told to watch for any Lewites who might try to come close to the furniture in the Set-apart Place; and the Lewites were to help watch for any Yisra'elite or stranger venturing onto set-apart ground where they weren't allowed to go. Yahweh didn't want any more of His servants to end up dead!

**(Remove all characters from board.)**

Then Yahweh promised to take good care of His servants, the priests—and also their Lewite helpers. The people were to bring offerings of one-tenth of all the good things that Yahweh provided them and give that to the Lewites. He gave Mosheh a list of all the meats, grains, oils and money that the Lewites were to receive from the people. **(Place Yisra'elite tithe offering scene on board.)** Even though there were many Lewites, they wouldn't be allowed to keep every bit of it, because after all, the priests had to eat, too. So, the Lewites would turn around and set aside one-tenth of all the gifts they got, and pass that on to the priests. **(Place Lewite tithe offering scene on board next to people tithe offering scene.)**

Yahweh also ordered that some parts of certain sacrifices must be given to those who were working so hard to prepare all these offerings. Not only were they carrying out the morning and evening sacrifices, but they had to handle all the offerings that the people were bringing, one after the other. When lunchtime came around, do you suppose any priests had been allowed even a minute to make a sandwich? No way. So, Yahweh commanded them to sit down and eat some of His meat and bread right there in the courtyard, near His Holy Place. Some of the food could be taken home for their wives and children, too. **(Place Lewite eating with family scene on board.)**

Yahweh also talked to them about their future. One day, when the Yisra'elites were all settled in the Promised Land, the land would be divided up between all the tribes, except for the tribe of Lewi. **(Place land inheritance map on board.)** The Lewites could have their own homes but would not get a big piece of land like the other tribes. Why was that? Well, just think how busy the Lewites and priests would be, taking care of Yahweh's Dwelling Place day after day. They wouldn't have time to till fields, reap the crops, raise cattle or shepherd livestock. **(Place shepherd and farmer scene on board.)** Instead of inheriting their own tribal property, Yahweh said that the priests would inherit Yahweh Himself! They would get to be near His House, and also study His Torah so they could help the people understand the best way to follow Yahweh's laws. **(Place Lewite studying Torah scroll on board.)** The Lewites would be helpers to the priests, and later on some even got to be musicians and praise singers in His House, with all their food and shelter provided. **(Place Lewite musician and singer on board.)**



Let's think about how Yahweh watches over us when we do what we are supposed to do to serve Him. He provides food, shelter and clothing. He gives parents, teachers and friends to help us and encourage us. Sometimes a person may come along and say they are better than we are at what we do and might even try to take over our job. But when we give our best and follow His commands, He will keep on choosing us for the job, and will not let them have their way. As we give all the honor to Yahweh, we will be so happy to be busy doing the very special things we are gifted to do for Him.

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!

