

LITTLE GEMS

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. For Bereshith we have additional instructions for characters relating to this story. We have also provided a video of the story for your convenience. You can find the video on our website.

Bereshith

Shalom children! Let's pretend I'm going to read you a story. Do you want me to start at the end of the book, in the middle, or at the beginning? (**Children will answer, "The beginning."**) The beginning in Hebrew is BERESHITH. Can you say that with me? BERESHITH. OK, so today we are going to talk about the beginning of creation: before there was Mommy or Daddy, before there was Grandma or Grandpa, before there was water to drink, and before there was grass to play on outside. But not before there was Elohim.

(For each day of creation, put the corresponding number on the board with the visual characters that go with it. If you do not have a large enough felt board, then simply remove each day after you talk about it.)

Day 1 - The earth was a big, dark blob. (**Put formless black felt on board.**) And Elohim said, "Let light come to be," and the light appeared. (**Put white/black connected felt on board.**) Elohim thought this was a good idea. Elohim then separated the light from the darkness, and said the dark would be night time and the light would be day time. (**Separate white and black felt.**) *This was what Elohim created on the first day.*

Day 2 - Elohim then made the heavens. You probably call it the sky. (**Put blue colored felt piece on board.**) *Elohim was now done with the second day.*

Day 3 - Elohim had some more ideas for creation. (**Lay waves of water on the board, with land piece under it.**) He made seas, oceans, rivers and lakes by separating the water and the land. (**Separate brown land piece from waves.**) Do you like playing in the water on a hot day? Well Elohim made it so we can enjoy it. Isn't He thoughtful? Elohim then told the earth to bring up grass and all sorts of trees and plants, and it did. (**Put tree and plant on land piece.**) Elohim saw that this was good. *Elohim was now done with the third day.*

Day 4 - Elohim made lights and put them in the sky, to separate the day from the night. One was called the sun (**put sun on the board**), and the other one He called the moon. (**Put moon on the other side of the sun.**) He said to the sun, "You can light the earth in the daytime." He told the moon, "You can light the earth at night." Isn't it thoughtful of Elohim to give us light so that we can play outside during the day and sleep when it's dark? Elohim said that this was good. *Elohim was now done with the fourth day.*

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Day 5 - Elohim filled the waters with fish and other water animals, like whales, octopuses and sea turtles. **(Lay down each animal as you call it out.)** Elohim also filled the sky with flying animals, like eagles, ducks, doves and ravens. **(Lay down each animal as you call them out.)** Elohim saw that this was good. Do you ever wonder how Elohim thought of each and every single animal to make? He must have had a lot of fun thinking of some of them. **(Let children discuss some of the animals that Elohim created.)** *Elohim was now done with the fifth day.*

Day 6 - Elohim filled the land with all sorts of animals. He made ones that crawl like snails, snakes and turtles, and ones that run and jump like horses and lions and tigers. **(Lay down each animal on the board.)** He made large elephants and very tall giraffes; and He made farm animals like sheep and cows. Do think Elohim had fun making all those animals? Do you have a dog or a cat for a pet? Well, Elohim made them also. **(Lay down each animal on the board.)** Elohim had to make someone to take care of all the animals. That's when He created the very first man. His name was Adam. **(Lay down the man.)** Elohim wanted Adam to have a wife, so He also made a woman. Her name was Hawwah. **(Lay down the woman.)** *Elohim was now done with the sixth day.*

Did you know that Elohim made us in His own image? I don't know about you, but I think that is very good! After making us, what else could Elohim possibly create? Let's take a look.

Day 7 - Elohim had worked very hard for six days, and He was happy with all He had done. So on Day 7 He stopped and rested. Elohim blessed the seventh day and set it apart, and gave it to us so that we can rest from all the work we do during the week and to spend time with Him. **(Place Sabbath scene on board and discuss the special things we get to enjoy on Shabbat, such as family time, Kiddush and Ha-Motzi, Sabbath candles, etc..)** Now you probably don't go to work like adults do, but I'm sure you have school work or chores that your parents give you to do during the week. On the seventh day, Elohim wants you and your parents to rest, just like He did. Isn't Elohim so thoughtful? He thinks of everything, doesn't He?

Well, boys and girls, that is how our amazing world came to be. Next week we will read another story from the first book of the Scriptures to learn more from Yahweh's word.