

LITTLE GEMS

Miketz

Shalom children! Do you remember a boy named Yoseph? **(Place Yoseph on board.)** He had 11 brothers, and some of his brothers sold him to a group of traders, who then sold him to the Mitsrites. **(Place 11 brothers on board.)** Remember, Yoseph had dreams, and his brothers didn't really like his dreams because in them, they bowed to Yoseph. Well, a lot of time passed. Yoseph didn't have too bad of a time, because even when he was far away from his family, he continued to honor Yahweh. And Yahweh blessed him and protected him. Yoseph was promoted to a high position in Potiphar's house. **(Place Potiphar on board.)**

Once, he was busy doing his job when Potiphar's wife accused him of doing something bad. Even though Yoseph did not do this bad thing, he was sent to jail. Even then, Yahweh was with him, and Yoseph was promoted to being a jailer's helper. While in jail, Yoseph met 2 men. One used to be Pharaoh's baker, and the other one was his cupbearer. That's the person who serves wine to the Pharaoh. **(Place baker and cupbearer on board.)** One day they seemed sad, so Yoseph asked them what was wrong. They told Yoseph they had dreams and didn't understand them. Yoseph told them Yahweh would help him understand their dreams. So they told him their dreams, and Yoseph told them what the dreams meant. Yoseph asked the cupbearer to make sure to tell Pharaoh that Yoseph was a good guy and didn't belong in jail. The cupbearer said okay, but then he forgot.

(Remove characters from board.)

One day, Pharaoh **(place Pharaoh on board)** was sleeping and had a dream. He dreamed that he was standing by the river, and 7 fat cows came out and were eating. **(Place fat cows on board.)** Then 7 skinny cows came and were standing next to the fat cows, when suddenly, the fat cows ate the skinny cows. **(Replace fat cows with skinny cows.)** Man, that was scary! Pharaoh woke up and was glad he was just dreaming. But then he went back to sleep and had a different dream. He dreamed that a stalk of grain popped out of the ground with 7 fat heads—that's the part that the grain is on. **(Place fat stalk of grain on board.)** Out popped 7 skinny heads, and they ate the fat heads. **(Replace fat stalks of grain with skinny stalks.)**

(Remove all characters from board except for Pharaoh.)

Poor Pharaoh! He did not have a good night, and he was not happy the next morning. Would you be happy if you had weird dreams? No, I wouldn't either. Well, Pharaoh called all the people that worked for him who might be able to tell

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him what his weird dreams meant, but no one knew. Then the cupbearer (**place cupbearer next to Pharaoh**) remembered Yoseph telling him what his dream meant. Wow, what a bad memory he had! It had been 2 years since Yoseph asked him to remember to tell Pharaoh he was a good guy. Yoseph was now 30 years old! Anyway, Pharaoh called for Yoseph, and Yoseph got all cleaned up before he went to see him. Then they brought Yoseph in front of Pharaoh (**place Yoseph by Pharaoh**), and Pharaoh asked him if he could tell him what his dream meant. Yoseph told Pharaoh that he couldn't do it except that Yahweh would tell him and allow Pharaoh not to be scared.

Pharaoh told Yoseph both of the dreams, and Yoseph explained to Pharaoh what they meant. He said that Yahweh was sending Pharaoh a warning that for 7 years, there would be lots of food to eat, but then there would be 7 years when there would not be any food growing, and it would be very bad for everyone. Yoseph said the 2 dreams meant the same thing, but that Yahweh had made him have 2 dreams so that he would know Yahweh meant it was going to happen.

Well, Yoseph not only knew what the dreams meant, but he also had a good idea of how to organize everything so that the people would not go hungry in the 7 bad years. Yoseph said to put 1 of every 5 things they grew into storage houses (**place storage house on board**) during the time when there was going to be lots of food. Then when the other years came around and food would not grow, they would have some, and no one would go hungry. Pharaoh was very happy with this idea, and he thought Yoseph was the smartest guy there was. He promoted Yoseph to be in charge of everything. The only one that could boss him around was Pharaoh. Pharaoh gave Yoseph his seal-ring so that everyone would know that Yoseph was in charge. (**Place ring on board.**) The seal-ring was very important; it worked like a stamp that had Pharaoh's signature on it. But that's not all. Pharaoh gave Yoseph some new clothes (**place Yoseph dressed as Mitsrite on board**), and because he was so grateful, he also gave Yoseph a gold chain necklace. (**Place necklace on board.**) Do you think that's it? Nope! Pharaoh also gave him a wife! (**Place Yoseph's wife on board.**) He also gave him a very special chariot and horse to ride. (**Place chariot and horse on board.**) Whenever Yoseph rode around, people had to bow because he was second in command to Pharaoh. (**Remove all characters from the board except for Yoseph.**)

Yoseph took his job seriously, and he made sure that all the food that was needed was collected in those special houses. He did this for 7 years, and then the bad years came. People from all over Mitsrayim and even other areas came to buy grain from Yoseph because he was the only one that had reserved some food. During the first 7 years, Yoseph had 2 sons; one was named Menashsheh and the other one was named Ephrayim. (**Place Menashsheh and Ephrayim on board.**)

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Then the 7 bad years came and soon Yoseph had to open up all those storehouses as people came from all over because they were so hungry. As you can see, Yoseph trusted Yahweh. Yahweh blessed him and blessed many, many people because of Yoseph. And so, children, we should always trust Yahweh and obey Him so that He can protect us! I wonder if Yoseph's brothers know that their brother is second in command over all Mitsrayim. Do you think Yoseph's dreams will finally come true? We'll have to find out about that another time.

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!