

LITTLE GEMS

Shemoth

Shalom children! Today we are going to talk about a new character in the Scriptures—one of Ya'aqob's descendants, born in Mitsrayim. **(Place pyramids on board.)** Now remember, 70 people had first come to live in Mitsrayim, but many, many years had gone by since Ya'aqob's family had moved there, and now there were many more. The children of those first families grew up and had grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren and... Well, you get the picture. A whole new group of people were there. Just as Yahweh had promised, Ya'aqob's family had become a huge number of people, and they were called Hebrews.

There were so many Hebrews that the new Pharaoh was NOT happy about it. **(Place Pharaoh on board.)** For years the Hebrews had worked alongside the Mitsrites, but now Pharaoh decided to force Ya'aqob's descendants to work extra hard as his slaves. But this failed to stop the Hebrews from living their lives and becoming an even bigger group of people! **(Place group of men on board.)** So Pharaoh then decided he would get rid of any Hebrew baby boys that were born. **(Place baby boys on board.)** That's so sad—they were just babies! But Pharaoh didn't want them to grow up to be strong men and maybe become soldiers against the Mitsrites. **(Point to group of men on board.)**

Well, there was one mother from the tribe of Lewi who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. His mom and dad hid their baby so that Pharaoh wouldn't try to get rid of him. But by the time this baby reached 3 months old, he became a little too noisy and a little too big to hide. So his mom made a little waterproof basket and put him in it. She then placed the basket in the water, by the reeds in the river. **(Place baby in basket and reeds on board.)** Now this baby had a big sister who stayed close by **(place Mosheh's sister on board)**, watching to make sure the baby was safe. Her name was Miryam.

One day Pharaoh's daughter went to the river to take a bath **(place Pharaoh's daughter on board)** and saw the basket. When she opened it, the baby was crying, and she knew it was not a Mitsrite baby. She felt badly for this beautiful child, and wouldn't even think of getting rid of him. When the baby's sister saw this, she immediately came running to Pharaoh's daughter and offered to help by getting a babysitter for the baby. Pharaoh's daughter thought that was a good idea, and she let the baby's sister go get someone. Well, Miryam was a smart little girl. Who do you think she went and got? Her mom, of course! The mother's name was Yo~~k~~ebed. **(Place Mosheh's mother on board.)** Pharaoh's daughter gave the baby to the mom and told her to bring him back when he was a little older. Wow, that's so cool! The mom didn't have to hide the baby anymore. She could take care of him and not be afraid. Yahweh provided for them didn't He?

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Well, when the baby got bigger, she did take him back to Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter named him Mosheh, because she had drawn him out of the water. From now on, young Mosheh would live in the palace with the Mitsrite royalty.

(Remove characters from board.)

Even though Mosheh grew up in the palace, he knew his birth family was Hebrew—the people that the Mitsrites were making into slaves. One day, when Mosheh had grown tall and strong, he happened to see a Mitsrite beating up one of the Hebrew slaves. Mosheh was NOT happy about that. **(Place Mosheh in Mitsrite clothing, angry Mitsrite man and scared Hebrew man on board.)** When the Mitsrite was alone **(remove scared Hebrew man from board)**, Mosheh went and beat him up and took his life. Of course, Mosheh knew he had NOT done a good thing! He glanced around to make sure no one was looking and hid the Mitsrite in the sand. **(Remove angry Mitsrite from board.)**

The next day Mosheh came across 2 Hebrews arguing. **(Place 2 Hebrew men on board.)** He tried to intervene, but they taunted him, asking if he was going to beat them up and take their lives like he did to the Mitsrite. Uh oh! Now Mosheh knew he was in trouble. And when Pharaoh found out, he was going to be in even more trouble. So Mosheh ran away.

(Remove characters from board.)

Mosheh escaped to a land call Midyan. After traveling a long way, he found a well and sat down to rest. **(Place Mosheh and well on board.)** In this land there was a priest, and his name was Re'u'el. He had 7 daughters, and it was their job to water the sheep. **(Place 6 daughters and 1 daughter on board.)** The daughters had just arrived at the well to water the sheep, **(place sheep, rams and daughters by well)** but some of the other shepherds decided to be bullies, and wouldn't let the girls bring their sheep to the water. **(Place shepherds on board.)** Now, that was not very nice, was it?

But there was really no problem, because big, strong Mosheh saw them and scared them away. **(Remove shepherds from board.)** Not only did he rescue the girls, but he also watered the sheep for them. The girls ran to tell their father about this kind stranger **(place Yithro on board and move daughters to him)**, and their father invited Mosheh to eat with them. **(Place food on board.)** Mosheh ended up settling down to live with them there in Midyan. He got married to one of Yithro's daughters, and had two sons. **(Place 1 daughter and 2 sons next to Mosheh on board.)**

(Remove characters from board.)

Meanwhile, back in Mitsrayim, a new Pharaoh had come to power. **(Place second Pharaoh on board.)** He was even meaner to the Hebrews than the Pharaoh before him. The work had become so terribly hard on the Hebrew people that they were constantly crying out to Yahweh for help. Yahweh listened and remembered what He had promised to Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob. **(Place Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob on board.)**

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(Remove characters from board.)

One day, Mosheh led the sheep out to feed close to a mountain called Horeb. **(Place Mosheh with sandals, rod, sheep, and mountain on board.)** There he spotted a flame blazing on a bush, but the flame was not burning up the bush. **(Place burning bush on board.)** Mosheh was curious, but before he could get near enough, Yahweh spoke to him and told him NOT to get close. Yahweh called to him, "Mosheh, Mosheh!" Mosheh answered Him and said, "Here I am." In Hebrew, "Here I am" is "Hineni." **(Place words on board and point to them.)**

Yahweh also told him to take his sandals off, because the place he was standing on was set-apart ground. **(Remove Mosheh with sandals and replace with Mosheh without sandals.)** Mosheh was afraid and covered his face. Yahweh declared to Mosheh that He was the Elohim of Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob. **(Place Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob on board.)** He told Mosheh that He had heard the cries of the Hebrews and had come down to deliver them. Yahweh then made it clear that He was sending him, Mosheh, to get the Hebrews out of Mitsrayim.

Mosheh wondered what he should answer if the Hebrews asked who had sent him. Yahweh replied that he should say that "I am" sent him. **(Place words on board and point to them.)** He told Mosheh that He was "I am that which I am," and that's what His name would be forever. He promised that one day all the Hebrews would worship Him on that very mountain. Yahweh then taught Mosheh exactly what to tell Pharaoh. He warned that Pharaoh would NOT listen at first, but in the end he would. And not only would the Hebrews get to leave Mitsrayim, but the Hebrew women would ask their Mitsrite neighbors for silver things and gold things and clothes, **(place bag of jewelry and 2 robes on board)** and the Mitsrites would give them anything they wanted. Wouldn't that be totally cool?

Well, there is a lot more to this story, but we'll save that for another time. We have come to the end of our story for today. We will see you next week for another exciting Little Gems story!