

LITTLE GEMS

Vayigash

Shalom children! Today we will talk more about Yoseph. **(Place Yoseph on board.)** Yahweh sure was looking out for him! Do you think it was because Yoseph stayed faithful and obedient to Yahweh? I think so. Yoseph didn't get to where he was by himself, but it did help that he always trusted Yahweh. Last week, we talked about the dreams Pharaoh had and how Yoseph told Pharaoh what they meant, which led to Yoseph being promoted to second in charge. Yoseph also ended up getting married and having 2 sons, Menashsheh and Ephrayim. **(Place 2 sons on board.)** Yoseph set his plan in place of saving up grain for 7 years so that when the bad years came, there would be plenty to eat. Now we are going to talk about something that happened during the 7 bad years.

(Remove characters from board.)

Not only was food hard to grow in Mitsrayim, but all the cities around Mitsrayim were also having a hard time growing enough to eat. So, people came to Yoseph to buy food. Well, Yoseph's father heard that there was food to be purchased in Mitsrayim, so he sent 10 of his sons to go buy some. **(Place 10 older brothers on board.)** He did not send his youngest son, Binyamin, because he was afraid that something bad would happen to him just like Yoseph.

Yoseph's 10 brothers came to Mitsrayim and bought lots of grain for the family. **(Place grain sack on board by the brothers.)** They did not know at first that they were buying from Yoseph. **(Place Yoseph on board.)** After testing his brothers to see if they had become better men, Yoseph told them who he was. They were afraid at first, but then they had a happy reunion with lots of hugs.

Pharaoh was happy that Yoseph's family had found him. He told Yoseph that he should bring his whole family to live in Mitsrayim close to him. He even told Yoseph to send donkeys **(place donkeys on board)** and wagons **(place wagon on board)** and food **(place food on board)** so that his father and the other members of the family could come to Mitsrayim. He told them not to worry about bringing all their stuff, because Pharaoh would make sure they had plenty of new stuff. Man, that sure is a nice Pharaoh! Do you think Pharaoh was extra nice because Yoseph had saved all of Mitsrayim with his big idea? I think so. He was probably very thankful to Yoseph for making sure that his family was safe from going hungry, and now he wanted to make sure Yoseph's family was safe from being hungry too.

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Yoseph did what Pharaoh said and sent his brothers with food and wagons. He gave 1 piece of clothing to each brother for the trip (**place plain robe on board**), but to his little brother Binyamin, he gave 5 pieces of clothing. (**Place Binyamin's robe and stack of 4 robes on board.**) He also gave him 300 pieces of silver. (**Place silver money bag on board.**) Wow, that's a lot of money! He also told the brothers not to argue. He must have remembered that his brothers sometimes got angry and got into trouble. Maybe he didn't want them trying to take the silver from Binyamin. Well, off the brothers went to tell their father about Yoseph. (**Remove Yoseph from board.**)

When the brothers finally made it back to their father Ya'aqob (**place older Ya'aqob and tent on board**), they were excited to tell him that Yoseph was not dead, but that he was a ruler in Mitsrayim. Ya'aqob didn't believe them at first, but then he saw all the things that the brothers had brought back and he knew it was true. He was so excited, he was ready to pack his stuff and go. (**Remove everything except older Ya'aqob from the board.**)

Ya'aqob made a stop to give thanks to Yahweh and give an offering. (**Place altar on board.**) Yahweh reassured Ya'aqob that he was doing the right thing by going to Mitsrayim and that Yahweh would be with him there just like He was with him in Kena'an. Ya'aqob was happy to be able to go see his son Yoseph, so he rose up, and he and all the families made the journey to Mitsrayim. That must have been a beautiful family reunion to see!

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!