

# LITTLE GEMS

## Vayikra

Shalom children! In the last couple months, we have learned about a man named Mosheh. We learned how he was protected by his mom from Pharaoh's hand and how he built such a relationship with Yahweh that He got to talk to Him as if they were friends. What an amazing thing! Yahweh wrote rules for Mosheh to share with the Yisra'elites. He was given the job of sharing with the people, to teach them and to guide them on the things Yahweh wanted them to do. Last time, we talked about the building of the Temple and how Yahweh chooses people to do special jobs and gives them the skills to do those jobs. **(Place Betsal'el and Oholiab on board.)**

One special person that we have already met through the book of Shemoth is Mosheh's brother Aharon. **(Place Aharon in priestly garments on board.)** Aharon was chosen by Yahweh to be the high priest, and his children were chosen to be servants who took care of the Temple. **(Place regular priest on board.)** Yahweh gave instructions on the clothes that were to be made for them. And now we are going to move to the next book in the Torah called Vayikra. Although we are moving to a different book, the children of Yisra'el are still in the wilderness. They have a lot more to learn. And in today's story, we are going to learn about some of the jobs they had to do.

Now, the children of Yisra'el had been in Mitsrayim their whole lives. Ya'aqob knew how to worship Yahweh properly with sacrifices. But these Yisra'elites had probably only heard of doing sacrifices, kind of like us. We only listen to the stories; we don't really know what it was like. Do you know what sacrifices are? Well, that's when you give something up even if you don't really want to. Sometimes you want to give it even though it is something you really like, so you still give it up.

The children of Yisra'el knew that some of the animals were meant to be sacrifices. They may have even loved those animals after taking good care of them, but Yahweh required specific animals for specific things. Some of the animals were sheep, goats, bulls, and turtledoves. **(Place animals on the board.)** Yahweh gave special instructions to the people of what animals they were to bring to offer to Yahweh, what they were to do with them, and what the priest was to do.

Now, it may make you sad to know that because people did things that were wrong, some animals had to die, but it is NOT something that made Yahweh happy either. But He cared about people and wanted them to have a way to show they were sorry or thankful, so He gave rules about how to give them.

Yahweh likes things done in order so that everyone can do them the same way, and that was no different for the animals. There were rules about whether you should bring a

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boy animal or a girl animal (**place a cow on board and move bull near it**), what kinds of animals were to be brought, and what to do with them. There were also rules about whether it was to be cooked and eaten or burnt to a crisp. (**Place cooked piece of meat and a burnt piece of meat on board.**) Some things had to be done by the priest and some by the person bringing the offering. For example, in some of them, the person bringing the animal had to put their hands on the head of the animal. (**Place person by a lamb.**) One thing was for sure, they were offered by the priests at the altar, where they had to keep the fire going and then clean up after things were cooked or burnt. (**Place priest by altar on board.**)

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

Mosheh read to the people and the priests all that they had to do in very specific details. And although we do NOT do those things now, we still want to learn about them. After all, Yahweh took the time to tell Mosheh about these things, and they were written down in the Scriptures for us. So we should take the time to learn about them.

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!