

# LITTLE GEMS

## Vayeshev

Shalom children! Well, Ya'aqob (place older Ya'aqob on board) has had a long life. He has a lot of children —12 sons in all— (place 11 sons on board) but 1 of them was his favorite child. His name was Yoseph. (Place Yoseph with regular robe on board.) Yoseph's mother was Rahel, and she died soon after Yoseph's little brother Binyamin was born. A long time had passed, and Ya'aqob's family had finally settled in their new home. The older brothers had become good shepherds and farmers.

Yoseph was now a teenager, and he had been helping some of his older brothers take care of the sheep. As typical teenagers, his brothers did something behind their father's back, and Yoseph tattled on them. I am sure they were not happy with him. Do you think you would be happy if your brother or sister told your parents on you? No, of course not. Well, on top of that, their father Ya'aqob made Yoseph a long robe. (Replace Yoseph with regular robe for Yoseph with long robe.) Now, back then you couldn't just go to the store and buy a robe. Each garment had to be made, and it took a lot of time. So the brothers knew how much more their dad loved Yoseph because of the special robe, and this made them very jealous.

Yoseph didn't seem to notice all these bad feelings his brothers had against him, because to make matters worse, he told them about a dream he had. He told them that in his dream, they were all together binding sheaves. Do you know what that means? It's when you get a bunch of stalks of grain and tie them up into a bundle like this. (Place grain sheaf on board.) Yoseph continued on about his dream. He suddenly said, "My sheaf rose up and was standing, and all your sheaves stood around me and bowed down." (Place 11 sheaves bowing down around tall sheaf on board.) Now his brothers were really mad at him, since Yoseph's dream indicated that he would be king over them. (Remove sheaves from board.)

On another day, he talked to his father and brothers and told them about a new dream. In this dream, he was standing there while the sun and the moon and 11 stars bowed to him. (Place bowing sun, moon and stars on board.) Ya'aqob was not happy about this and asked him if he meant for him and his mother and brothers to bow to him. Oh boy, his brothers were really angry then! But Ya'aqob didn't get angry at Yoseph. He just put it in the back of his mind.

**(Remove characters from board.)**

More time passed, and Yoseph's brothers were sent by their father to feed the sheep in Shekem. Ya'aqob wanted to make sure they were doing okay (place older

# LITTLE GEMS

**Ya'aqob** on board), so he called to Yoseph. Yoseph said, "Here I am." **(Place Yoseph with long robe on board by Ya'aqob.)** Ya'aqob asked Yoseph to go check on his brothers, so Yoseph went. **(Remove older Ya'aqob from board.)** Yoseph searched for his brothers in Shekem, but a man told him his brothers had gone farther to a place called Dothan. So he kept on going, hoping to find his brothers. His brothers **(place 10 brothers on board a little farther away)** saw him before he saw them, and they remembered how angry he had made them. They started calling him names before he even got to them. They called him a 'master of dreams,' but not in a nice way. They started thinking of ways to hurt him. They began making fun of him, and asked one another how his dreams were going to come true if he was hurt badly. The oldest brother, Re'uben, heard them plotting and ordered them not to hurt him, but to throw him in an empty pit that was nearby. **(Place empty pit on board.)** Re'uben was planning to rescue him out of the pit later and sneak him back to their dad.

When Yoseph finally made it to where his brothers were, they attacked him. They took off his long robe and threw him in the pit. **(Place Yoseph in pit on board.)** While the brothers were sitting down to eat their lunch, they saw a group of traders coming with camels. **(Place Yishma'elite traders and 10 camels on board.)** Another one of Yoseph's brothers, Yehudah, had an idea. He said, "Let's make some money. Instead of hurting Yoseph, we can sell him. Then we won't get in trouble for hurting him." So when the traders got there, they took Yoseph and sold him for 20 pieces of silver. **(Place silver on board.)** The traders then took Yoseph with them down to Mitsrayim (Egypt). **(Remove Yoseph, Yishma'elite traders and camels from board.)**

Now Re'uben had been gone for a little while, so when he went to sneak Yoseph out of the pit, he discovered that Yoseph was gone. Re'uben was terribly upset; he didn't know how he would explain it all to their father when he found out. So the brothers again came up with an idea. Man, these brothers sure are full of ideas! Anyway, they decided that they would pretend to have found Yoseph's robe covered in blood and let their dad imagine what had happened. So they got the long robe they had taken off Yoseph and put an animal's blood on it. Then they showed it to their dad and asked him if he recognized it. **(Place older Ya'aqob and the long robe with blood on board.)** Their dad was very, very sad, because he figured that Yoseph must have been attacked by wild animals and had died. Even though the brothers knew what had really happened, they tried to make Ya'aqob feel better. But Ya'aqob stayed sad.

Meanwhile, the traders who had bought Yoseph sold him to an important Egyptian man named Potiphar, who was the captain of Pharaoh's guard. **(Place Potiphar on board.)** Not a very happy ending to this story is it children? It sure doesn't look like Yoseph's dreams about his brothers will come true at this point, does it?

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!