

# Shimri's Big Idea

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Who is wise?

## Heavenly Watering Can

Getting a drink isn't always as easy as going to the sink. In many times and places, people have had to walk long distances to draw water from a faraway spring and then lug the heavy jugs back home, as Shimri's family does in this story. When the Israelites lived in Egypt, they had a constant, bountiful water source: the Nile River. But when they arrived in the land of Israel, they had to rely solely upon the rains — and the rainy season only lasts for part of the year (around November to April). Even today, residents of Israel depend on the rainy season for farming and drinking. To learn more visit [pjlibrary.org/shimri](http://pjlibrary.org/shimri).

## From All My Teachers I Have Grown Wise

Learning is built into the Jewish way of life — not just from books, but from people and experiences. In this story, King Hezekiah learns from a child. He sees that even little Shimri has something valuable to contribute. Ben Zoma says in *Pirkei Avot* — a collection of Jewish wisdom from the sages — “Who is wise? One who learns from everyone (4:1).” Shimri takes this idea a step further. By learning not just from people but also the world around him, he creates a solution to Jerusalem's water problem that is fit for a king.

## A Kingly King

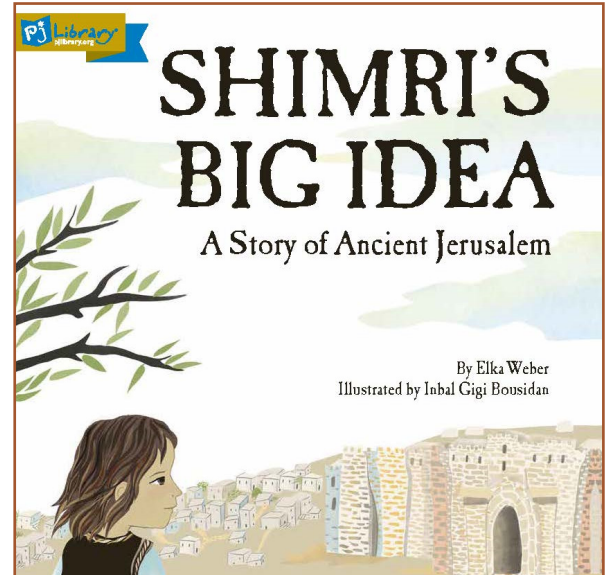
Who was King Hezekiah? Back in ancient Israel, he worked tirelessly to eliminate idolatry, encourage Torah study throughout the country, cleanse and renovate the Holy Temple, and reinstate the lapsed Temple service. Hezekiah strived to unify the people. When the Assyrians threatened to invade, Hezekiah provided for the needs of his people by building the Siloam Tunnel to bring water into Jerusalem. Did a small boy really inspire him? We'll never know, but the tunnel is real, and visitors to Jerusalem can actually walk in this tunnel today. Be prepared, though — you have to wade through deep waters, sometimes up to your waist, in the dark! It may not be for the faint of heart, but it's an unforgettable experience.

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

**H**ave you ever been told you're too young to do something?

**W**hat special things can you do *because* you are young?

**H**ow can a small person make a big change in the world?



## HANDS ON!

## Make a Tunnel



You can't play in the Siloam Tunnel in Israel (maybe someday!), but you can play in this one.

## Supplies

Large cardboard boxes  
Tape  
Scissors  
Crayons and/or markers



Cut off the tops and bottoms of the boxes to make rectangular tube shapes. Tape the boxes together at the openings. They can be arranged as a long straight tunnel, or you can make turns in your tunnel by cutting off additional box sides and attaching more boxes that go off to the right or left. Decorate the tunnel inside and out with your art supplies, and get ready for some tunnel adventure!