

# Yavneh Primary School



## Purim Pack For Parents



This pack contains:



Background Information about the Festival of Purim



Purim Songs and a recipe for Hamantaschen!



A list of Websites to help you support your child!

## Facts about Purim



### Why do we celebrate Purim?

We celebrate Purim to remember how Hashem saved the Jewish People from the wicked Haman.

One of the most ancient and persistent enemies of the Jewish people was the nation of Amalek, the first enemy to attack the Jews after the Exodus from Egypt. A descendant of the Amalekites, Haman, had ascended to the position of "prime minister" of the Persian Empire. This rabid anti-Semite planned an empire-wide pogrom to eliminate the Jewish People. He chose the date for this mass murder by casting lots. In Persian, the word for lot is *pur*. The plural form is *Purim*, hence the name of the holiday.

The heroine of the Purim story is Esther, a devout Jewish woman who was forcibly taken as a wife for Achashverosh. She and her cousin Mordechai, one of the religious leaders of that generation, were instrumental in saving the Jewish People from annihilation. After uniting the Jewish nation in repentance and prayer, they set about exposing Haman's plot to the king. Haman and his equally wicked sons were executed when Achashverosh learned that he had planned to kill Queen Esther's nation. The Jews were permitted to defend themselves against their enemies on the appointed day for annihilation, and were totally victorious. Mordechai and Esther recorded the events of Purim in Megillat Esther (literally, Scroll of Esther). The Megillah is read publicly on the night and day of the Purim festival.



Although it became part of the Bible, the account that we read in Megillat Esther never mentions the name of Hashem, though there are veiled allusions. This surprising omission actually reflects a central theme of this holiday. On Purim, we celebrate the fact that the hand of Hashem guides us, even at times when we do not see open miracles or obvious Divine intervention.

Below you will find a summary of Megillat Esther.



## A 'cut-out and keep' guide to Megillat Esther

### **CHAPTER 1 -- KING ACHASHVEROSH THROWS A PARTY**

1. A lavish six-month celebration marks the third year in the reign of Achashverosh, king of Persia.
2. Queen Vashti refuses the king's request to appear at the celebration and display her beauty for the assembled guests.
3. The king's advisors counsel that Vashti be replaced with a new queen.

### **CHAPTER 2 -- ESTHER BECOMES THE QUEEN**

1. Across the Persian Empire, officials are appointed to identify beautiful candidates to succeed Vashti as queen.

2. A Jewish girl, Esther, the cousin of Mordechai, is brought to the capital of Persia as one of the candidates.
3. Mordechai tells Esther to conceal her identity.
4. Esther is chosen to be the queen.
5. Mordechai learns of a plot to overthrow the king. Mordechai informs Esther who then tells the king, and the plotters are hanged.

### **CHAPTER 3 -- THE RISE OF HAMAN**

1. Achashverosh appoints Haman to be his prime minister. All bow in homage to Haman.
2. Mordechai persistently refuses to bow to Haman.
3. An enraged Haman vows to kill all the Jews of Persia.
4. Haman prevails upon Achashverosh to destroy the Jews.
5. A royal edict is disseminated throughout Persia. The 13th of Adar is designated as the date to exterminate all the Jews and plunder their possessions.

### **CHAPTER 4 -- ESTHER'S MISSION BECOMES CLEAR**

1. Mordechai tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of public mourning.
2. Mordechai sends a copy of the decree to Esther and asks her to intercede with the king.
3. Esther replies that to approach the king without being summoned is to risk death.
4. Mordechai tells her that she has no choice.
5. Esther tells Mordechai to ask the Jews to fast and pray for three days before she will approach the king.

## **CHAPTER 5 -- ESTHER'S STRATEGY, HAMAN'S FURY**

1. King Achashverosh receives Esther and grants her virtually any request.
2. Esther requests that the king and Haman should join her at a banquet.
3. After the banquet, Haman sees Mordechai who once again refuses to bow.
4. When Zeresh, Haman's wife, suggests that Mordechai be hanged, the gallows are prepared.

## **CHAPTER 6 -- THE REVERSAL BEGINS**

1. The king cannot sleep and asks for the royal chronicles to be read to him.
2. The king is reminded of the assassination plot that Mordechai had revealed. He learns that Mordechai was not rewarded.
3. That same night, Haman comes to see the king about hanging Mordechai.
4. The king tells Haman to honour Mordechai by dressing him in royal garments. He is to place him on a royal stallion and personally lead him through the streets of Shushan, capital of Persia.

## **CHAPTER 7 -- REVERSAL OF FORTUNE**

1. At the second banquet, Esther reveals her identity and announces that she and her people are about to be murdered.
2. Esther identifies Haman as her arch enemy.
3. The king hangs Haman on the gallows that had been prepared for Mordechai.

## **CHAPTER 8 -- THE REVERSAL IS COMPLETE**

1. Mordechai is named prime minister to replace Haman.

2. A second royal edict is promulgated empowering the Jews to fight and kill anyone who would try to harm them.

### **CHAPTER 9 -- THE HOLIDAY OF PURIM**

1. On the 13th of Adar, a day that had been designated for Jewish destruction, the Jews are victorious over their enemies.

2. The ten sons of Haman are hanged.

3. The 14th and 15th of Adar are designated to celebrate the salvation. These are the days of Purim.

4. Mordechai initiates the Purim practices -- consisting of a festive meal, the exchange of gifts of food, and the giving of monetary gifts to the poor.

### **CHAPTER 10 -- MORDECHAI AND PERSIA**

1. Persia, with Mordechai as prime minister, flourishes.

2. The role of Mordechai in the history of the Persian empire is recorded in the king's chronicles.

Adapted from "One Hour Purim Primer," by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf.

### **How do we celebrate Purim?**

There are four mitzvot specific to the holiday of Purim:

- Reading the Scroll of Esther
- Sending food to friends
- Giving gifts to the poor
- Enjoying a festive meal

1. The Scroll of Esther is read on Purim night and again the next day. Every word must be clearly heard. We read it in Shul because the larger the crowd, the greater is the publicity that is given to the miracle of our being saved.

2. On Purim morning, we deliver Mishlo'ach Manot (tasty treats) to family and friends. The minimum requirement is to send two items of food to at least one person. Preferably, one should send food that is ready to be eaten immediately. Purim is the day we reach out to embrace our fellow Jews - irrespective of any religious or social differences. It is particularly good to give gifts to those with whom we may have had an argument, or to someone new in the community who will appreciate the hand of friendship.



3. On Purim, it is also a special mitzvah to give gifts of money to the poor. The Jewish People are one unit - we cannot possibly enjoy the holiday if the poor do not have enough.
4. The day's grand finale is the festive meal that is eaten on Purim afternoon.

### **Why do we have a custom to dress up on Purim?**

On Purim, children (and some adventurous adults too) traditionally dress up. This is an allusion to Hashem's Hand in the Purim miracle, a Hand that was disguised by natural events.



## Purim Songs



If you hear the name...

(Tune: If You're Happy and You Know It)

If you hear the name of Haman stomp your feet. (stomp feet twice) x2

If you hear the name of Haman, if you hear the name of Haman, if you hear the name of Haman stomp your feet (stomp feet twice)

If you hear the name of Esther clap your hands.....

If you hear the name of Achashverosh turn around.....

If you hear the name of Mordecai shout hooray....

Chag Purim

Chag Purim

Chag Purim

Chag gadol layehudim

Masechot, ra'ashanim,  
shirim verikudim.

Hava narishah - rash, rash, rash,

Hava narishah - rash, rash, rash,  
Hava narishah - rash, rash, rash,  
Bara'ashanim.

Chag Purim  
Chag Purim  
zeh el zeh sholchim manot,

Machmadim, mamtakim,  
Tunifim migdanot.

Hava narishah - rash, rash, rash,  
Hava narishah - rash, rash, rash,  
Hava narishah - rash, rash, rash,  
Bara'ashanim.

Translation of Chag Purim song:

FESTIVAL OF PURIM

Purim time  
Purim time  
A big festival for the Jewish people

Masks, noisemakers  
songs and dances.

Wind your noisemakers - "rash rash rash"  
Wind your noisemakers - "rash rash rash"  
Wind your noisemakers - "rash rash rash"  
With your noisemakers.

Purim time  
Purim time  
we send gifts to one another

Treats, sweets  
and other nice things.

Wind your noisemakers - "rash rash rash"  
Wind your noisemakers - "rash rash rash"

Wind your noisemakers - "rash rash rash"  
With your noisemakers.

### Mishenichnas Adar

Mishenichnas Adar marbim besimchah

Mishemichnas Afar marbim besimchah

Oooh ooh Mishenichnas Adar

Oooh ooh Marbim besimchah.

### Purim songs- Utube links:

Purim Fountainheads song-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9HbULd67sE>

Purim Maccabeats Song-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgJInVvJSZg>

## Hamantaschen Recipe



Hamantaschen are delicious little biscuits stuffed with tasty fillings (typically fruit or jam). These biscuits are pinched into little triangle “hats” to represent Haman’s triangular shaped hat!

**Prep Time:** 20 minutes

**Cook Time:** 15 minutes

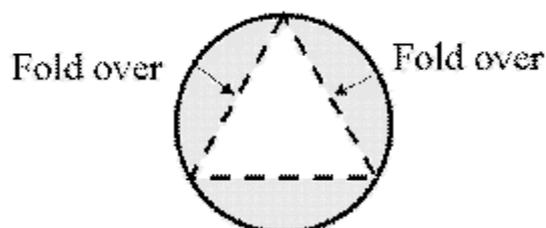
**Total Time:** 35 minutes

**Ingredients:**

- 2/3 cup margarine, room temperature
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup all-purpose white flour
- pie filling or jam
- egg, beaten
- sugar for garnish

**Preparation:**

1. Blend butter and sugar thoroughly.
2. Add flour and orange juice, alternating.
3. Refrigerate batter for a few hours.
4. Roll out dough as thin as you can.
5. Cut out 3-4 inch circles.
6. Put a tablespoon of filling in the middle of each circle.
7. Fold up 3 sides to form a triangle (Overlap the sides so only a little filling shows through the middle).



8. Bake at 375 degrees for about 10-15 minutes. Bake until golden brown.

Websites



Would you like to find out more about Purim?

Useful Websites with information about Purim as well as videos, arts and crafts ideas and songs:

[www.akhlah.com](http://www.akhlah.com)

<http://www.akhlah.com/holidays/Purim>

[www.shalomsesame.org](http://www.shalomsesame.org)

<http://www.shalomsesame.org/parents-and-educators/Purim>

[www.chabad.org](http://www.chabad.org)

<http://www.chabad.org/holidays/Purim>

[www.jewishinteractive.net](http://www.jewishinteractive.net)

<http://jewishinteractive.net/site/families/>

For Purim craft ideas:

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/jewish/purim/index.htm>