



Station Activities for Exploring the Four *Mitzvot* of Purim

Whether you are setting up a multi-age Purim-fest, or a pre-*megillah* reading carnival, we have compiled fun activities to engage students in dynamic learning. Choose as many or as few station ideas as you wish.

Provide each station with a simple instruction card to make the stations self-directed.

Purim Mitzvah #1

Mikrah Megillah – *Megillah* Reading

- This is a great opportunity for students to look at the Hebrew text. Bring up an e-version of *Megillat Esther*, the Scroll of Esther, on an iPad or laptop. You can find the entire *Megillah* in Hebrew (with *Nikkud*) and/or English at Mechon-mamre.org, Opensiddur.org, or Sefaria.org. Ask students to page through the *Megillah* in Hebrew and read a verse out loud or search for the Purim characters' names in Hebrew.
- Download JTeach's short version of the Purim story. Cut the story into sections. Working in pairs or small teams, have students put the story strips in order. Have silly prizes available for those who complete the task!
- Have a teen helper available at this station to read Purim stories to the students. Check out JTeach's [Purim Bibliography](#) for suggestions.
- Have students retell the Purim story in cartoons. Comic strip apps make it easy for your students to tell the Purim story in a fun and exciting way and share their storylines with friends. To select the app that will work best with your device(s), go to our [Guide to Choosing Comic Creation Apps](#). Get your *Madrichim* (teen helpers) to assist the students in creating the comic strips and to oversee good digital citizenship at this station.
- Get them ready for the big *Megillah* reading! Help students learn the *berachot* (blessings) that are recited before and after *Megillah* reading. Get your song leader involved – ask them to teach the words and the melody.

Purim Mitzvah #2

Mishloach Manot – Sending Gifts of Food to Friends

- Set up a station with paper lunch bags (brightly colored lunch bags are often available in the big box stores), markers and stickers. Have students decorate bags for *mishloach manot* to give to friends or to send out to your community.



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- Set up a table with wrapped food items to include in a *mishloach manot* package. Hand each student a bag and have them go down the line packing their bag with each item. Students can do this once to make a bag to give to a friend, or they can go down the line as many times as you need until you have *mishloach manot* packages for your whole community.
- Have a hamantaschen baking station. When all the hamantaschen are baked, wrap them in plastic and use them to fill your *mishloach manot* packages.
- Create other types of packaging for *mishloach manot*. Students can decorate paper plates with images from Purim, place food items on the plate and then wrap them with plastic wrap to take home and share with a friend.
- Students can create cards wishing elderly or home-bound community members a *Purim Sameach* (Happy Purim).

Purim Mitzvah #3

Matanot L'evyonim - Gifts to the Poor

- Have students decorate *tzedakah* צדקה boxes to take home with them. Use mod podge with magazine pictures or give students paint or sharpie markers to decorate them. You could suggest that students decorate the box with images of where they would like their money to go. Have them label the box *tzedakah* צדקה.
- Contact a local soup kitchen or food bank and ask if they would take sandwiches or other prepared food. Have your students do a sandwich-a-thon or make bagged lunches or other food offerings for the needy.
- Suggest to your community that they use boxed macaroni and cheese or other dry food items instead of *graggers* for your *megillah* reading. Have students decorate collection boxes for each class to collect the food. After the *megillah* reading, donate the “*graggers*” to a food bank.
- Have students make posters advocating for giving to the needy on Purim. Tell students that their posters should include a slogan and image, and reference Purim in some way. Hang the posters around your building.
- Have students make promo videos teaching about giving to the poor on Purim. Provide them with silly props and texts from the *megillah* and ask them to work in small groups to create a promo video. Use a smartphone or tablet to record the promos and send them out to your community.



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Purim Mitzvah #4

Purim Seudah – Enjoying a Festive Purim Meal

- Outfit the table with Purim snacks shaped as triangles. For example, serve hummus with pita bread triangles, watermelon triangle wedges and, of course, Hamantaschen!
- Create table runners. Cut butcher paper or muslin into 3 foot by 12 inch rectangles (or try large triangular shapes!). Students can decorate their runners with fabric markers, stickers, and festive rubber stamps. If available, run the finished paper or muslin through a laminator to protect the artwork from spills and mess.
- Have a Latke/Hamantaschen tasting contest! Let students vote on their favorite holiday treat. Play the song [Latke Hamantaschen Debate](#) by Rabbi Joe Black in the background.
- There is a *midrash* that says that Haman had twisted ears. Make twisted pretzels in the shape of Haman's ears. Use this [gluten-free pretzel recipe](#) so that everyone can enjoy.
- Is your building a food-free zone? Make paper Hamantaschen! Cut out 3 inch circles. Find the math lover in your class and ask them to figure out how to fold a circle into a triangle, and then demonstrate it to others (hints for the leader are supplied below). Students can decorate the paper Hamantaschen to look like their favorite flavor and write **Happy Purim** notes inside their creations to include in their *mishloach manot* baskets.

