



Make Your Own Mishloach Manot Record Bowl

Topic

Purim

Grade Level(s)

Intermediate

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students will

- Be able to explain the meaning behind *Mishloach Manot*
- Prepare to perform the mitzvah of *Mishloach Manot*
- Create something in the spirit of Purim

Materials needed

- Print-out of *Megillat Esther* 9:22.
- Oven Mitts or Good Potholders
- 7" metal bowl (for shaping) ---> or other heat safe bowl
 - The size of your bowl depends on the look you're going for. If you want a more upright bowl that resembles a slightly bucket-ish shape then use a smaller bowl with slightly upright sides (for the shaping bowl). If you want a more low-slung, fruit bowl style bowl then use a bowl with more relaxed, wider sides.
- 8.5-9" metal bowl (for heating) ---> or other oven safe bowl
- cookie sheet
- Vinyl records (For an added Jewish flavor, find old Jewish records or records that feature Jewish singers.)
- Oven
- Acrylic paints and paint brushes (optional)
- Paint markers (optional)
- Construction paper
- Markers, crayons, etc.



Background for Teachers

The holiday of Purim has four *mitzvot* associated with it. They are *Mikra Megillah* (reading the Scroll of Esther), a Purim *se'udah* (a festive Purim meal), *Mishloach Manot* (giving gifts of food to friends), and *Matanot l'Evyonim* (giving gifts to the poor). The last three of these *mitzvot* appear in a single *pasuk* (verse) (*Megillat Esther* 9:22).

The *mitzvah* of *Mishloach Manot* involves giving at least two portions of food to someone. The reason for giving at least two portions is that "*Manot*" appears in the plural, thus implying more than one portion.



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While the minimum *mitzvah* is to give two portions of food to one person, many people have the custom to give bags or bowls of food (often based on a particular theme) to many people. Some people even have the custom to make sure to include enough variety that recipients can say different *berachot* (blessings) over their gifts (e.g. *borei minei mezonot* and *borei p'ri ha'eitz*).

Prepare in Advance

- **Make sure your kitchen is well ventilated.**
- Post *Megillat Esther* 9:22 on the board.

Description of Activities

The instructions for making the bowl were taken from: <http://offbeatbride.com/2010/02/diy-record-bowl>

CAUTION: Use oven mitts or good potholders at all times.

1. Ask students how many *mitzvot* are associated with Purim.
 - a. They should be able to identify four.
2. Explain to students that they will be focusing on one of the *mitzvot*, *Mishloach Manot*.
3. Ask who can explain what *Mishloach Manot* is.
 - a. Students should be able to explain that it involves giving gifts of food to friends.
4. Show students *Megillat Esther* 9:22.
 - a. Ask students to identify where the *mitzvah* of *Mishloach Manot* appears.
5. Explain to students that they will be preparing in class to give *Mishloach Manot*.
6. Preheat oven to around 200 degrees for ten minutes (set the timer!).
7. To set the mood, you might want to play some Purim music while students work. You could even use a record player if you have one.
8. Place large metal bowl on cookie sheet **open side down**.
9. Place the record, with the side you want on the INSIDE of your bowl, face down, and place it on top of the over-turned bowl.
10. Bake the record in the oven until you see it start drooping over your bowl and getting pliable. Every vinyl record bowl + oven combination will take different amounts of time, but for us our record was ready to take out at about five minutes. Check it every minute or so by pulling it out (with your oven mitt on!) and gauging the flexibility of it.
11. Its okay if it's not flexible enough the first time you take it out of the oven! Vinyl is awesome in that you can just put it back in and re-heat it.
12. When your record seems pliable enough to shape, take it out of the oven and place it right side up inside your smaller (shaping) bowl. Press it down with your fingers in the bowl and shape it to your tastes. Don't be afraid to get physical with your record when shaping!





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13. Let your record cool for a minute or so and then pull it out of the bowl and admire it! You now have an amazing, vinyl record bowl.
14. **Do not place unwrapped food directly in the bowl. Line the inside of the bowl with plastic wrap, paper or another bowl before filling it with unwrapped food.**
15. Decorate your bowl for Purim.
 - a. Use paint markers to write “Happy Purim” on the outside of the finished bowl.
 - b. Decorate the bowl with acrylic paints. Try to incorporate Purim shapes and symbols into the design.
16. Create a clever Purim card to go along with the new Purim bowl.



Differentiation Options

Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways and modalities, the following options are provided to adjust the above lesson to meet the unique needs of your learners.

For learners who need more assistance

- Pre-mold bowls and have students decorate the bowls.

For learners who need extension opportunities

- Write “Happy Purim” in Hebrew (חג פורים שמח) on the outside of the bowl.



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כַּיּוֹמִים אֲנִי רָחֹק וְאַתָּה בְּתוֹךְ הַיְּהוּדִים מְאֹד וְכִי
וְהָיָה דָּשׁ אֲנִי נִהְיָה לְךָ מֵיָגוֹן לְשִׂמְחָה וּמֵאֲבֵל
לְיוֹם טוֹב לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָם יְמֵי מְשִׁנָּה וְשִׂמְחָה
וּמְשָׁלוֹחַ מְנוֹת אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ וּמִתְּנוּת לְאֲבִיּוֹנִים

[Mordechai wrote that] on the days when the Jews
rested from their enemies, and the month when it
was changed from sorrow to happiness and
mourning to holiday to make for themselves days
of feasting and joy, Mishloach Manot [giving
portions] to each other, and gifts to the poor.



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