

## Shake Your Mac and Cheese

## <u>Topic</u>

Purim

## Grade Level(s)

All

# Goals for the Lesson/Activity

### Students will

- Be able to explain the *mitzvah* of *Matanot l'Evyonim* (giving gifts to those need help).
- Be able to explain the source for the *mitzvah* of *Matanot l'Evyonim*.
- Perform the mitzvah of *Matanot l'Evyonim*.

## Materials needed

- Boxes of Pasta
- Festive Wrapping Paper or Construction Paper
- Ribbon
- Glue
- Markers, Colored Pencils, etc.
- Safety Scissors

## **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 *Matanot l'Evyonim* involves giving food or money to people in need. The form and amount to be given is debated, with some saying that one could give as little as a penny and others saying that one should give enough to enable someone to have a Purim *se'udah*. However much one gives, the *mitzvah* may be fulfilled by giving the money or food directly to the recipient or by giving a donation to an organization that will distribute the money or food.

It is worth noting that the mitzvah of *Matanot l'Evyonim* comes last in the list of *mitzvot* that appear in *Megillat Esther* 9:22. There is also a rabbinic concept of "*Acharon Acharon Chaviv.*" While in modern Hebrew this phrase can be loosely translated as "Last but not least," the rabbis understand it to mean that the last in a list of items is the most beloved. In this case, that would mean that the most important of the Purim *mitzvot* is *Matanot l'Evyonim* and that people should perform the *mitzvah* before focusing on the other *mitzvot*.

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#### Prepare in Advance

Ask students to bring in boxes of pasta. Cut paper for younger students.

#### **Description of Activities**

- 1. Review the four *mitzvot* associated with Purim.
- 2. Show students *Megillat Esther* 9:22.
  - a. Ask students to identify where the *mitzvah* of *Matanot l'Evyonim* appears.
- 3. Explain to students that they will be preparing in class to give *Matanot l'Evyonim* while also creating their own personalized *ra'ashanim* (*graggers*) for Purim.
- 4. Explain to students that they will be decorating boxes of pasta.
  - a. Cut wrapping paper or construction paper to fit around the box.
  - b. Cut lengths of ribbon long enough to wrap around the box and tie into a bow.
  - c. Glue the ribbon along the middle of the paper. Leave excess on each side.
  - d. Decorate the paper with drawings or clip art.
  - e. Tie the paper to the pasta box.
  - f. Shake your new gragger at *Mikra Megillah* (Megillah Reading).
  - g. After *Mikra Megillah*, donate the pasta boxes to a local food pantry or other organization that collects food for those who need.

#### **Differentiation Options**

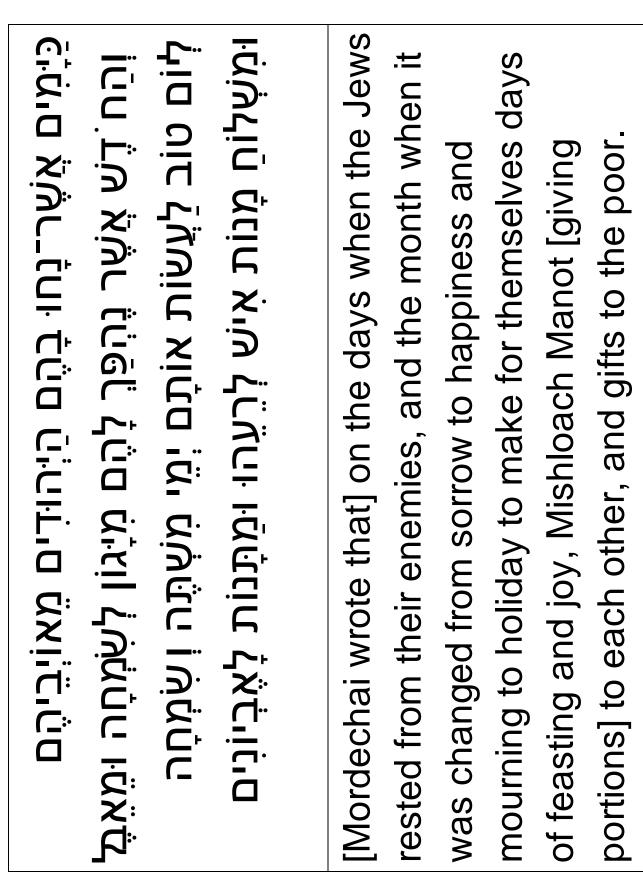
Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways and modalities, the following options are provided to adjust the above lesson to meet the unique needs of your learners.

#### For learners who need more assistance

• Glue paper and ribbon to the box beforehand and ask students to decorate.

#### For learners who need extension opportunities

• Students research appropriate places to donate boxes of pasta.







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