



# Shake Your Mac and Cheese

## Topic

Purim

## Grade Level(s)

All

## Goals for the Lesson/Activity

### **Students will**

- Be able to explain the *mitzvah* of *Matanot I'Evyonim* (giving gifts to those need help).
- Be able to explain the source for the *mitzvah* of *Matanot I'Evyonim*.
- Perform the *mitzvah* of *Matanot I'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 I'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 I'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 I'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 I'Evyonim* and that people should perform the *mitzvah* before focusing on the other *mitzvot*.



## **Shake Your Mac and Cheese**

### **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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כְּיָמִים אֲנִי-נָחַ. בְּהֵם הַיְּהוּדִים מְאֹדִים הֵיטֵב  
וְהָיָה אֲנִי נִהְפֵּךְ לָהֶם מֵיָגוֹן לְשִׂמְחָה וּמְאֹד  
לְיוֹם טוֹב לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָם יָמִי מְשֻׁבָּה וְשִׂמְחָה  
וּמְשֻׁלֹּחַ מָנוֹת אֵינִי לְרַעְהוּ. וּמִתְכַּנּוֹת לְאַבְיָנוּיִם

[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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