



Purim themed Shabbat Mishpacha

Submitted by: *Marcia Seigal*

Subject Area: Jewish Living and Identity, Holidays, Prayer, Jewish History, Culture & Art.

Target Age Group: Families with young children ranging from preschoolers to first graders.

Lesson Objective:

To teach about Purim and to create a comfortable learning environment that helps families with young children integrate Jewish traditions and customs into the fabric of their lives as well as connect to the synagogue. The program attracts many families with young children who are seeking an opportunity to meet other Jews within their demographic. It also appeals to interfaith families who do not possess the skill set to create a Jewish experience and want to gain exposure to Jewish living.

Summary:

The program begins with a short Shabbat service which includes Hinei Mah Tov, The Shalom Song, Modeh Ani, Barchu, Shema, Mi Chamocha, and Miriam's Song as well as a closing song and story connected to Purim. Possible books to choose from include Dance, Sing, Remember – A Celebration of Jewish Holidays by Leslie Kimmelman, Purim by Camille Kress, and The Whole Megillah *(Almost) by Shoshana Silberman. Nametags are provided for families as they arrive, as well as instruments for children to play during the service and groggers to shake during the closing song.

After the service, everyone participates in the blessings over the wine and the challah. Hamentaschen are available for participants to snack on, along with dress-up clothes for the children to try on, as it is customary to wear costumes on Purim. Next, children may choose from a variety of activities and art projects. Children may concentrate on just one activity, or they can try their hand at them all. Possibilities include making groggers, assembling Mishloach Manot Baskets, or crafting masks (see appendix for more information). Plain paper and crayons are also available for children to illustrate their favorite part of Purim.



Purim themed Shabbat Mishpacha

Submitted by: *Marcia Seigal*

Finally, the program concludes with the singing of Shalom Chaverim, as well as an invitation to attend next month's program. Handouts relating to Purim are distributed to parents as they leave.

APPENDIX:

Groggers

Grogger means noisemaker and is traditionally shaken on Purim when Haman's name is heard (and is usually accompanied by some loud boing).

What you need:

Small paper plates
Markers or crayons
Felt or colored paper
Glue
Yarn
Stapler
Dried beans (the bigger varieties work best)
Popsicle sticks

What you do:

- 1) On one of the plates, draw Queen Esther's face with your markers or crayons. Then, make her crown. You can decorate it using felt or colored paper, if you like, Glue on yarn for hair. Or if you'd rather, make Haman's face.
- 2) Have an adult staple the two plates together most of the way around.
- 3) Into the opening that remains, pour in about 1 cup of dried beans. Then insert the end of the popsicle stick so that it can be used as a handle. Have an adult staple the opening shut.
- 4) Shake away – the nosier, the better!



Purim themed Shabbat Mishpacha

Submitted by: *Marcia Seigal*

Mishloach Manot Baskets

Gather Chinese takeout boxes, newspaper with Chinese writing, chopsticks, fortune cookies, green tea packets, and other items you may find at an Asian grocery store or Chinese restaurant. Line box with crumpled newspaper, and then fill box with other items provided. Children can then take their basket home and deliver it to family or friends.

Masks

Buy Mardi Gras style masks and confetti (in fun shapes). Have children use glue sticks to attach confetti pieces to masks. Children can then wear the masks to a Purim party and see if anyone recognizes them!