

Text Questions for Purim

Read over the page titled: "The 4 Mitzvot of Purim." These mitzvot (commandments) come from the Megillah, the story of Esther that we read on Purim:

Esther, Chapter 9, verses 20-24

(20) And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters to all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus, both near and far, (21) to enjoin them that they should keep the **fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly**, (22) the days when the Jews had rest from their enemies, and the month which was turned for them from sorrow to gladness, and from mourning into a good day; **that they should make these days of feasting and gladness, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.** (23) And the Jews took upon them to do these mitzvot as Mordechai had written unto them; (24) because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast *pur*, that is, the lot, to distress them, and to destroy them.

As a recap, the 4 Mitzvot of Purim are:

1. Hearing the reading of the megillah
2. Mishloach Manot: Give a gift of two foods to a friend
3. Tzedakah: Give to two people who are in need
4. Eating a celebratory meal

Younger Children:

1. Which mitzvah seems the easiest?
2. Which mitzvah is the most difficult?
3. Which mitzvah is the most fun?
4. Which one do you want to do the most for Purim?

Older Children:

1. Have you observed any of these mitzvot before? If yes, which one(s)? If not, which one(s) would you like to do for this upcoming Purim? Why?
2. Which of the 4 mitzvot do you think is the most meaningful?
3. What does the text in the box above teach us about *why* we do these mitzvot on Purim?