"THE MACCABEATS - PURIM SONG" LESSON PLAN

by Alexandra Fleksher

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Students will identify the *mitzvot* that pertain to the holiday of Purim as depicted in "The Maccabeats - Purim Song." They will then study the sources for these *mitzvot* in the Book of Esther and explore how the Maccabeats' video enhances their understanding of the Purim *mitzvot*. Students will also recognize the theme of the song and identify the lyrics which illustrate the video's central message.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will identify the *mitzvot* depicted in "The Maccabeats - Purim Song."
- Students will analyze the sources of these *mitzvot* in the Book of Esther.
- Students will explore how the Maccabeats' video deepens their appreciation for the Purim *mitzvot*.
- Students will identify the main theme/message of the video and provide supporting lyrics.

ACTIVITY

1. While watching "The Maccabeats - Purim Song," ask each student to keep a running list on paper of the Purim *mitzvot* that can be seen in the video. When the video is finished, students pair up, share, and compare their list with a partner. The song can be viewed here: http://mediamidrash.behrmanhouse.com/watch.php?VID_ID=kgJInVvJSZg

2. Distribute the source sheet (below) to the class to be filled out in pairs. You can go over the chart with the class after the conclusion of the activity if you feel it necessary.

3. Pose the following questions to all of the pairs:

What new meaning did the Maccabeats' Purim Song give to your own understanding of the Purim *mitzvot*?

How did the video make you *feel* about the observance of the holiday of Purim?

The partners should discuss their answers to these questions and come up with a response to be shared with the rest of the class.

4. Hand out a copy of the song lyrics, which can be found below and on http://mediamidrash.behrmanhouse.com/watch.php?VID_ID=kgJInVvJSZg at the right of the page. Students watch the video one more time, now focusing on identifying the central theme or message of the song. As they listen to the song, ask students to highlight the lyrics that illustrate the song's theme (God's hidden hand guiding events behind the scenes). Responses can be shared in a class discussion.

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PURIM *MITZVOT* SOURCE SHEET

Source	Purim mitzvah or *mitzvot*	How mitzvah is seen in the Purim Song
1) "…the month which had been transformed for them from one of sorrow to joy, from mourning to festivity—to make them days of feasting, rejoicing, sending food portions to one another, and giving gifts to the poor." (*Megillat Esther* 9:22)		
2) "And these days are remembered and observed in every generation, by every family, in every province and every city. And these days of Purim will never cease from among the Jews, nor shall their memory depart from their descendants." (*Megillat Esther* 9:28)		
3) "On the 13th day of the month of Adar, and they rested on the 14th day, and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing." (*Megillat Esther* 9:17)		

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“THE MACCABEATS - PURIM SONG” LYRICS

Stand stand for a tale so grand
Shushan is the place where it all began
The hidden miracle
One man, second in command
Slay all the Jews was his wicked plan
A scheme so miserable
He chose a day for the disaster
It's ironic what came after
He didn't know a girl named Esther
Would turn it upside down

So raise your glass if you can see
the hidden meaning,
it's right in front of you,
we will never be never be anything but proud
to tell the story, *v'nahafoch hu* [It was turned upside down]
Won't you come on and come on and
raise your glass
just come on and come on and
raise your glass

Esther became the queen
Cuz God was pulling strings from behind the scenes
She wore the royal crown
3 days the Jews just prayed,
Queen Esther risked her life went to save the day
She took Haman down
The streets were filled with celebration
Everyone ate Hamantashen
Jubilation for the nation
Ken tihiyeh lanu... [So should it be for us]

So raise your glass if you can see,
the hidden meaning,
it's right in front of you,
we will never be never be anything but proud
to tell the story, *v'nahafoch hu*
Won't you come on and come on and
raise your glass
just come on and come on and
raise your glass

So get your costumes on
Make noise and drown out Haman
Don't drink like a fool
And remember and remember
What the day's about...

So raise your glass if you see God in hidden places,
He's right in front of you,
We will never be never be anything but proud
to tell our story, *v'nahafoch hu*
So raise your glass if you can see
the hidden meaning,
it's right in front of you,
we will never be never be anything but proud
to tell the story, *v'nahafoch hu*
Won't you come on and come on and
raise your glass
just come on and come on and
raise your glass...

(Lyrics © 2011 David Block and Immanuel Shalev)

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