

*Discovering*  
**THE GIFT OF  
PURIM**



**A guide for families to understand  
and celebrate the Feast of Lots**

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# Invitation to Celebrate

## The Gift of Purim

### **Festival of Lots**

This festival of Purim observes the Divinely orchestrated salvation of the Jewish people in the ancient Persian Empire from Haman's plot to "annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day." In a Hebrew leap year, Purim falls into Adar II, the fourteenth day of the month. This plot against the Jewish people was connected to a long-time enemy of theirs, the Amalekites (Haman was an Amalekite).

### **The Amalekites**

The Amalekites were a people group mentioned frequently in the Old Testament, and were persistent enemies of Israel. We too have an enemy who pursues us relentlessly, but in the unseen realm. So it is important for us to follow the story of the Amalekites and Israel this month because it sheds light on the strategy of annihilating demonic programs operating to destroy God's people. The story of Purim and the pursuing Amalekites show us that God desires for each of us to strengthen ourselves in Him and overcome the schemes of hell.

### **A Viscous Surprise Attack**

This enemy struck Israel immediately following their escape from the Red Sea and God's provision of water at Rephidim, and Israel was not ready for the fight. The same strategy is used by our unseen enemy. Do not be surprised if after the Lord has delivered you from something, there is a spiritual attack immediately after.

We must learn how to position ourselves in Christ so that we can overcome. The interesting thing about this attack was that the Israelites were not on Amalekite territory and were not even headed in that direction. As you can see, there has always been a worldly hatred for God's chosen people.

Today, as believers, we are grafted into God's family, and have become His chosen people, set apart for His Holy use. That fact alone is enough for the enemy of our souls to attack us as we pursue the Lord. We have all come out of an Egypt; and while the power of that strongman "Pharaoh" has been broken, our journey to God's promise has only just begun. God wants to teach us how to defend ourselves, but more importantly how to take an offensive stance and push back the gates of hell.

For we are called to advance the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth. We see Moses ascending to a nearby mountain to pray for God's salvation, and Esther fasting and praying for God to save her people. Like Moses and Esther, we must go up higher to see the battle from God's perspective. For we know that we are seated with Christ in heavenly places according to Ephesians 2:6.

The story of Esther reminds us to pray for the salvation of the Jewish people, and people all around the world. There is an anti-spirit at work in our world today, being used through people like Haman to destroy God's people. As we celebrate this day, we celebrate Jesus' victory over the world and the devil.



# Make a crown

Craft for  
young kids

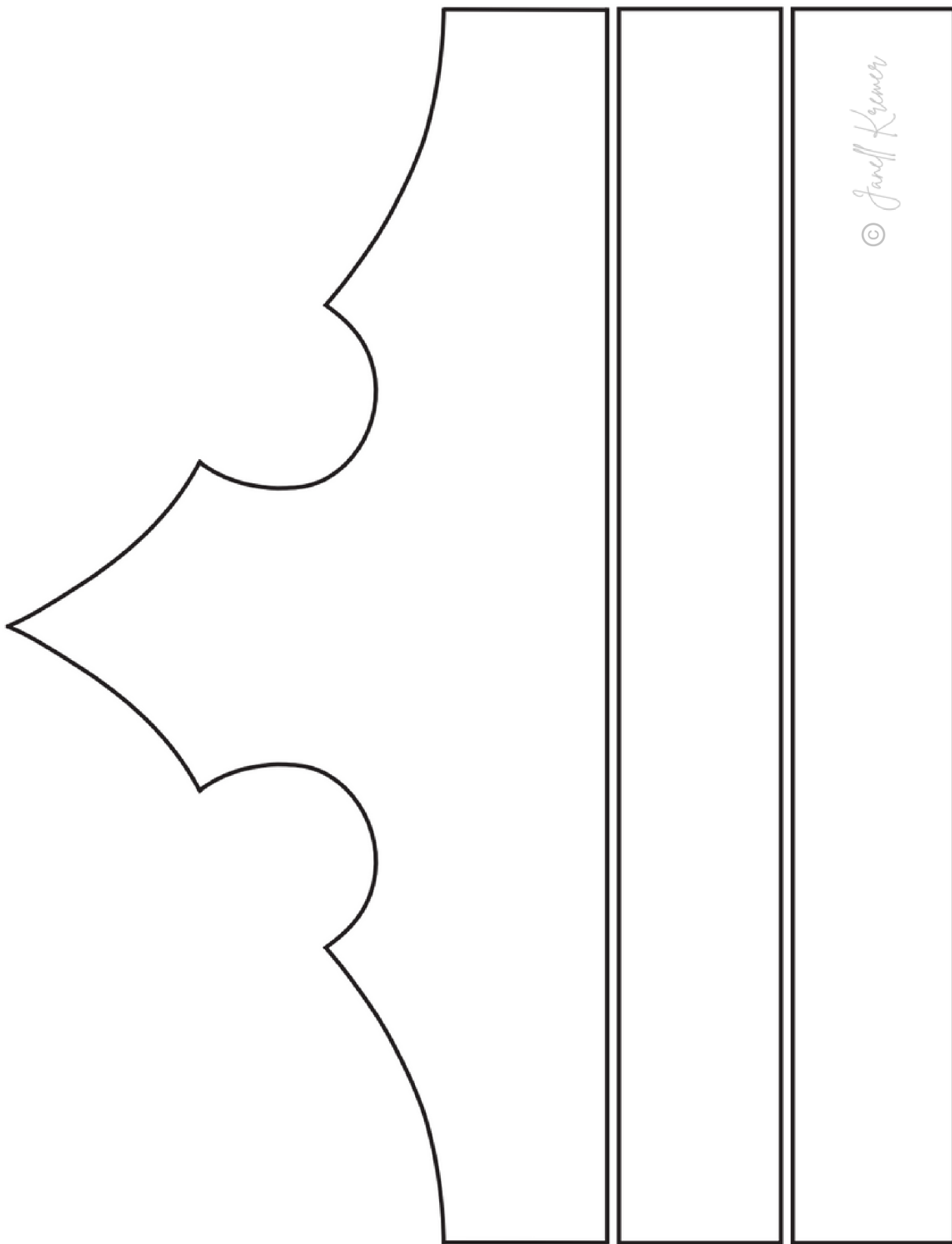
## Printable Purim Crown

Want to act out the Purim story with friends or siblings?

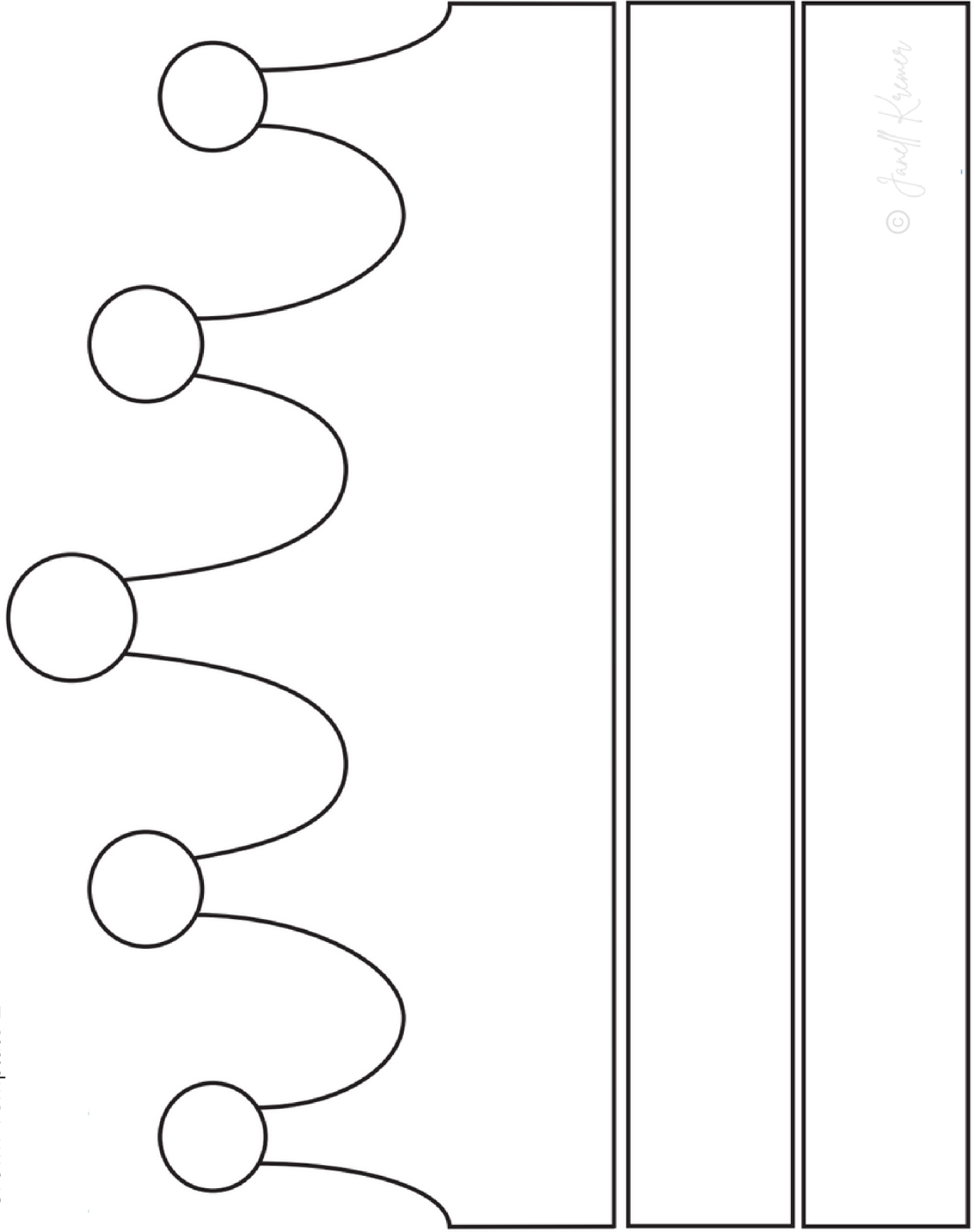
This crown is for you!

1. Print the crown. You can print it on white or colored cardstock or construction paper.
2. Decorate. You can color in the lines or turn it around and decorate freely on the blank side. You could also use glitter, sequins, or feathers to make it fancier.
3. Customize the length of the crown and cut the excess off.  
Glue the ends together.

Crown Template 1



Crown Template 2



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# Make Finger Puppets

Craft for  
young kids

## Printable Finger Puppets

As you read the Purim story, your kids can act it out with these cute finger puppets!

1. Print the finger puppets. You can print it on white cardstock or construction paper.
2. Customize the length of the finger puppet and cut the excess off. Glue the ends together.
3. Place on child's finger!

# Finger Puppets



Queen Vashti



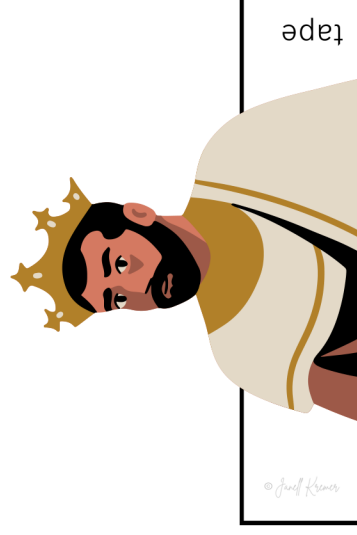
Esther



Mordecai



Haman



King Xerxes



# Read Esther

Esther  
Ch. 1-10

## Overview

- Xerxes divorces Vashti ..... Esther 1
- Esther becomes queen ..... Esther 2
- Haman's Plot ..... Esther 3
- Esther's Courage ..... Esther 4-5
- Xerxes honors Mordecai ..... Esther 6
- Haman is hanged ..... Esther 7
- The Jews are saved ..... Esther 8-9
- Mordecai is honored ..... Esther 10

### Keeping Kids Engaged

It is customary for kids to bang the table and make noise when Haman's name comes up in the story. They can yell "boo" when he is mentioned. When Mordecai and Esther's names are spoken, they can cheer.

## Who Wrote this book?

The Author of this book is *unknown*

## Why was this book written?

Esther reveals how God takes care of His people.

## What happens in this book?

A Jewish girl named Esther becomes the queen of the Persian Empire. An evil man named Haman plots to kill all the Jews everywhere. Esther saves her people.

## What do we learn about God in this book?

Although God's name isn't mentioned, keep your eyes out for His activity. God doesn't need to do miracles to rescue His people. He will often work through ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

## Who are the key characters in this book? \*Use the finger puppets!

- King Xerxes
- Mordecai
- Queen Vashti
- Esther
- Haman

### **"One Night with the King" (2006)**

Beginning with a minor appearance by Peter O'Toole as the prophet Samuel (who's not in the Purim story, but whose story is linked to it by many commentators), the film tells the story of Purim. It's the closest to the actual story.

This is a great film for families, rated PG.

\*Go to [justwatch.com](http://justwatch.com) to see where you can view this movie

### **"Superbook: Esther — For Such a Time as This"**

Season 2 Episode 5

At school, Joy has to choose between standing up for Bonnie or going with the crowd. Suddenly, Superbook sends Joy, Chris, and Gizmo to a time when Queen Esther chooses to stand up for the Israelite people. This encourages Joy when she faces Janice and the Girls' Leadership Club.

\*Go to [superbook.cbn.com](http://superbook.cbn.com) to see where you can view this episode



### **Celebrating Purim: For Christians**

Gentile believers are under no dietary laws or restrictions, and so this feast can be whatever you would like it to be. Do something different than a normal meal. Set out fancy plates and silverware. Have your children help set the table.

Another idea is to light special candles. You can read the story of Esther before, after, or during the meal. The idea behind it is to celebrate how God was faithful to protect His people, even when they were in exile.

Israel's election says something about your own. God called you by name, before He created the universe (2 Thessalonians 2:13). God loves you with an "everlasting love" and with loving kindness draws you to Himself (Jeremiah 31:3). We can celebrate this, and that there is no fear in God's sovereign and captivating love for your soul (1 John 4:18). If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). What a wonderful God we serve!

# Hamentaschen Recipe

Yummy  
Cookies

## Haman's Pockets

During Purim, it is traditional to eat Hamantaschen and other triangular-shaped foods, like stuffed cabbage or samosas, as a way of symbolically "defeating" Haman and celebrating the victory of the Jewish people over their enemies.

## 2 Recipes Included

Both of these recipes are non-kosher for Gentile Christians. A dietary rule, cited three times in the Torah, concerns the separation of meat and dairy produce: "You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk." (Exodus 23:19 and 34:26 and Deuteronomy 14:21). In some Jewish circles, this law is still observed.

As a result, butter, milk and cream are not used in preparing dishes made with meat or intended to be served together with meat. Oil, pareve margarine, rendered chicken fat, or non-dairy cream substitutes are used instead.

In both recipes included, you substitute for non-dairy options.

# Hamantaschen

## HAMAN'S POCKETS

### Ingredients

#### Base

- 1 stick (½ cup) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 Tbsp milk (or non-dairy milk)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest (optional)
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour, plus more for rolling
- ¼ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt

#### Filling (pick as many as you wish)

- Fruit jam
- Chocolate
- Peanut butter

### Directions

1. Beat the butter and sugar together until smooth.
2. Add egg, milk, vanilla, and lemon zest until mixed thoroughly.
3. Sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt.
4. Add dry mixture to wet mixture until incorporated. (If dough is too soft, increase flour amount by a few Tbsp at a time until firmer)
5. Form dough into a disk and cover it with plastic wrap. Chill dough in the fridge for at least 1 hour or up to 24 hours.
6. Dust surface with flour to keep from sticking. Roll the dough to about ¼-inch thick.
7. Using a round 3-inch cookie cutter, cut out and place onto cookie sheet. To keep the dough from sticking to your cutter, dip in flour before each cut.
8. Fill each round with ½ tsp of your favorite filling, and using your favorite method, pinch corners together tightly (using the method to the right).
9. Pop into the fridge for 10 minutes, or freezer for 5 minutes, to ensure hamantaschen hold their shape.
10. Bake at 400°F for 7–9 minutes or until golden brown on the corners and the filling is bubbling.
11. Let cool and enjoy!



#### How to Fold:

1. Fold the right side of the circle toward the center.
2. Then fold the left side toward the center, overlapping the top right-hand corner.
3. Finally, fold the bottom of the circle upwards to create a triangle shape.
4. Pinch the corners securely.

# Hamantaschen (Gluten-Free)

## HAMAN'S POCKETS

### Ingredients

#### Base

- 2 cups fine almond flour
- 1 cup tapioca flour
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup cold vegan or dairy salted butter, cubed
- 1/4 cup milk, or non-dairy milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt

#### Filling

- Fruit jam
- Chocolate
- Peanut Butter

### Directions

1. In a medium sized bowl, mix together the sugar, milk, vanilla, butter and lemon zest.
2. Add almond flour, tapioca flour, baking powder, and salt. Begin mixing together with your hand to break up the butter and incorporate it into the dry ingredients to create a dough.
3. Once the dough is formed, remove it from the bowl and cover it in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
4. On a lightly floured or greased surface, roll the dough out so that its about a 1/4" thick.
5. Using a round 3-inch cookie cutter, cut out and place onto cookie sheet. To keep the dough from sticking to your cutter, dip in flour before each cut.
6. Fill each round with 1/2 tsp of your favorite filling, and using your favorite method, pinch corners together tightly (using the method to the right).
7. Pop into the fridge for 10 minutes, or freezer for 5 minutes, to ensure hamantaschen hold their shape.
8. Bake at 350°F for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown on the corners and the filling is bubbling.
9. Let cool and enjoy!



#### How to Fold:

1. Fold the right side of the circle toward the center.
2. Then fold the left side toward the center, overlapping the top right-hand corner.
3. Finally, fold the bottom of the circle upwards to create a triangle shape.
4. Pinch the corners securely.