



# ONE, TWO, THREE, PURIM!

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*Purim is filled with child-friendly activities – making hamantaschen, delivering Purim baskets, dressing up. It's as fun as counting one, two, three!*

## JEWISH CONCEPTS

Of all the holidays in the Jewish year, none is more fun for children than Purim, which arrives in late winter on the 14th day of the Jewish month of *Adar*. The child in this story takes part in classic, child-friendly Purim activities – she bakes *hamantaschen* (triangular cookies with delicious fillings), delivers *mishloach manot* (baskets of goodies) to her neighbors, dresses in costume, and shakes her *grogger* (noisemaker) whenever she hears the name Haman.

Haman is the villain in the story of Purim. Set in Persia in the 4th century BCE, the tale is of a beautiful Jewish woman named Esther who was married to the king, Ahashverosh. When Esther learned that the prime minister, Haman, was plotting against all the Jews in the land, she summoned the courage to stand up for her people. Her bravery saved lives and has inspired the Jewish people for centuries. The story is read aloud from the *megillah* (Book of Esther) in synagogues around the world on Purim. The full megillah reading may be too long and complicated for very young children, but other Purim activities are just their speed – treats, dress-up, and lots of noise. *Chag Purim Sameach* -- Happy Purim!