

# Make a Family Megillah for Purim

by Sherry Schoenwald

A memorable and lasting project for Purim is to make your own family copy of the Esther Megillah. It is a very fun project, but you will need to begin about 2 weeks before your celebration. You will need:

2 - 1" dowels about 24 inches in length (or the width of your paper)

A roll of newsprint paper from a local printer or newspaper (this is usually free)

(alternate) a roll of craft paper

4 wooden curtain-rod ends (from Home Depot or other building supply)

4 - 4" round plastic or wooden discs

Gold spray paint

short piece of ribbon

Find a central place in your home where your "scroll" can be available to write in. The coffee table is a great place for this. Try of few different pens on your paper

to see which ones look the best. Check that they don't smear easily. For the English version, roll all the paper to the right. Very brave souls may want to try a Hebrew version in which case you should roll the paper onto the left side.



Each "page" is the width of a school ruler. This way you can easily make light pencil markings as a guide for the words to be written on.. It is more satisfying and fun to read if the letters of the



scroll are about 1 inch in height. It is helpful to make all the page guidelines before starting to actually write in the scroll. Be sure and leave about a 2-inch space between each "page". Now begin writing the scroll. The first letter of the scroll can be embellished for effect. Keep a Bible open to the book of Esther. Our family rule was that each person could write as much as they wanted and as many times as they wanted at any given time, but when they finished a "page", they initialed it. In subsequent years, it is fun to remember who wrote which page. Keep some white-out handy in case of mistakes.. When one person finishes writing, the scroll is just left out for anyone to work on at any time until it is complete. More paper can be added to your scroll (this works well for BIG mistakes too) by taping pieces together.

Attach the "balls" and discs to the ends of the dowels and spray-paint it all gold. With a long leader, staple or tape the ends of the scroll to the dowels. For those who sew, a velour bag is nice to store your megillah scroll in. Tie it closed with a nice gold ribbon, and it is ready for Purim. Our family tradition is to read from our megillah every year while appointed actors act it out. ArtScroll makes a beautiful visualized megillah for younger children to follow in.



*For if you remain silent at this time,  
then relief and deliverance will come to the  
Jews from another place; but you and your  
father's house shall be destroyed:  
and who knows whether you have come to  
the kingdom for such a time as this?*

*Esther 4:14*