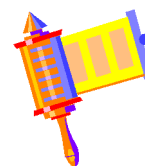


# מְשַׁנְּחֵנְס אָדָר מְרַבִּים בְּשִׂמְחָה



## Teaching the Concept of Mishenichnas Adar Marbim BeSimchah

To teach the concept of Mishenichnas Adar Marbim/Marbin BeSimchah:

1. Have the phrase, "Mishenichnas..." written on the board / fixed up on flashcards and just translate it together with the class. Don't explain at all.
2. Take a bowl of water and a stone and, with the children gathered round, drop the stone in so that they see the ripples. Even better, give bowls to a few groups and get them to do it themselves.

Instruct them to try to drop the stone directly in the centre of the bowl.

You can either move straight on to the discussion or first ask them to draw a picture of the ripple effect (don't use the word ripple, yet! Just say "draw a picture that shows what happened after the stone hit the water.")

3. The children are given just thirty seconds or so to discuss with a neighbour what the connection is between the effect of the stone falling into the water and the phrase on the board.
4. Gather some responses. This is quite interesting.
5. Don't explain fully straight away. Ask the question, "If Purim is in the middle of the month of Adar, why do we increase our joy as soon as Adar begins?"

6. They will begin to explain the mashal themselves - if not, draw it out of them. Look at the phrase on the board: what does the stone represent? "Purim!" or "the joy of purim!" ...and the water? "Adar!" ...and the ripples? "The joy spreading out to the edges of the month!" ...and why did we drop it into the middle of the water? "Purim is in the middle of Adar!" ..so what is the date, etc.

Older children should have drawn the ripples closer to each other in the centre and further apart towards the outside. So, too, our joy is more intense as we move closer to Purim.

Extend the mashal further by using something that represents Purim instead of the stone, like a bean, which could be from a gregger. Take the opportunity to connect with what is the beginning of the statement, "*Just as when Av begins we reduce our simchah, (so, when Adar begins...)*" and when Av comes you can do the same but relate back to Adar. A stone will be more appropriate for doing the exercise in Av, representing the Churban (destruction of the Temple). In fact, you could instead use droplets of red dye, indicating blood, and the intensity of the colour will be greater closer to where they fall.

The idea of the ripples being closer nearer the centre helps with teaching the increasing severity of mourning as reflected in the Halacha as we move closer to Tisha Be'av.

The whole thing integrates interestingly with any study of water, etc.

**Behatzlachah and Purim Sameach!**

