

## Syllabus Navi 1

Rabbi Shmuly Begun

[rabbi@jewishtierrasanta.com](mailto:rabbi@jewishtierrasanta.com)

### **A brief course description:**

The story of Esther: This course will take us on a journey through the Book of Esther. We will read parts of the story and learn about the Jewish people who lived during the time of the Persian Empire. We will explore the main characters, the big events, and the important messages hidden in the story. We will also learn about the holiday of Purim.

### **Curriculum and Units of Study:**

#### Unit 1: History

In this unit, we will set the stage for the story. We will learn about the powerful Persian Empire and its king. We will also understand the historical situation of the Jewish people at that time living in a foreign land.

#### Unit 2: The Story of Esther, (chapter by chapter)

This unit is a close reading of the Book of Esther. We will follow the plot as it unfolds, from Esther becoming Queen, to Haman's plan to destroy the Jewish people, and finally to the turn of events that saves them. We will read the entire story and understand how the holiday of Purim came to be.

#### Unit 3: Meaning

In this final unit, we will look at the deeper meaning of the story.

We will discuss why it is a story of being proud Jews. We will also connect the events in the book to the celebration of Purim and understand why this ancient story is still important today.

### **Grading and Expectations:**

Reading Quizzes: You will have short quizzes to check for the understanding of the story's main characters and events.

Partner Learning: You will work with a partner to do small projects like giving a short presentation on a character or writing a summary of a chapter.

Final Exam: The final exam will test your knowledge of the story, the characters, and the important lessons we discussed in class.

### **Required Materials:**

- The Book of Esther (Kehos edition). Please bring this book to every class. (<https://a.co/d/2HixtNV>).
- Pen or pencil and a notebook. You will be required to take notes.

