

Name _____

Hevruta

Circle the passage assigned to you and your partner:

- Tobit's healing and reunion with Tobiah: Tobit 11:9–18
- Tobit's song of praise: Tobit 13:1–15
- Judith's defeat of Holofernes: Judith 13:1–16
- Judith's song of praise: Judith 15:14–16:15
- Haman's plot against the Jews: Esther 3:1–13
- Esther's prayer: Esther 3:12–25
- The purification of the Temple: 1 Maccabees 4:36–59
- The martyrdom of a mother and her sons: 2 Maccabees 7:1–9

The Steps of Hevruta

1. Sit face-to-face with your partner.
2. Use your "12-inch" voice. This ensures that your partner will hear you but the rest of the class probably will not.
3. **Read:** One of you reads the assigned passage *slowly* and *out loud* (or you can take turns reading out loud). As you hear the words, silently note anything that jumps out at you. This could be a word or phrase you don't understand; something that seems problematic, disturbing, or inconsistent; something that moves you or touches you; or something you either agree or disagree with.
4. **Question:** You and your partner take turns coming up with *questions* about the passage *out loud*. Look at what the passage **says** and think about what it might **mean**. To begin, you might look for words or phrases that repeat throughout the passage, for areas that seem confusing or inconsistent, for metaphors or symbols, and for both literal and spiritual meanings.
5. **Discuss:** You and your partner try your best to answer at least some of the questions you have generated. Don't be afraid to make educated guesses as to what an unfamiliar word or phrase or weird or funny part of the passage may mean. Keep in mind that some questions do not have easy answers, and some questions have no answers at all. In *hevruta*, that's okay!
6. **Apply:** You and your partner share what has come to mind from your own life experience as you work on this passage. For example, you might consider how the passage relates to your own life, what other writings or stories this passage reminds you of, and what this passage could teach you.

Take some notes during your *hevruta* conversation so that you can later share your insights with other students in your class.

