

# MEZUZAH - DOORPOSTS

## SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Handouts (Background Info, Questions For Reflection, Activity)
- Bibles
- Small artist's canvases (1 per person)
- Pencils
- Artist's acrylic paint
- Variety of paintbrush sizes

# - DOORPOSTS BACKGROUND INFO

- Read Deut. 6:4-9
- Jewish people often affix a 'Mezuzah' to their doorframe to denote the sacred space that is within. Inside the Mezuzah are the words of the 'Shema, which begin with the words of the passage you have just read.
- Jews attach Mezuzah's to their doorposts in obedience to God's commandment to do so.
- Jews are to place a Mezuzah on the doorpost of anywhere they will be living for longer than a month.
- The presence of the Mezuzah reminds those who live in the house that God resides with them. The Mezuzah is also a statement to those coming upon the home that this is a Jewish home.
- The Mezuzah is not a decorative item; it is a restatement of the essence of the Jewish faith.
- The Mezuzah is one of many reminders of God presence and activity; these reminders are considered to be the very guardian angels that protect him or her from sinning. They help Jews remember that they believe in a God who will preserve their going out and their coming in.

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## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How does the practice of affixing a Mezuzah to the doorframe of your house speak to both those that dwell within and those that pass by?
- I once had a door knocker that read, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”. How would you feel about having a sign or some other visible object affixed to your house serving as a symbol of your faith?
- How do you react to seeing faithful symbols of other religions on those you pass by on the street?
- A Mezuzah is affixed to the doorpost indicating something about what is within. In what ways would an outsider know what is within your house? What things in your home indicate to others you are a person of faith? What things in your home remind you to be faithful.
- By displaying an object/sign indicating your faithfulness to others you also invite others to hold you to your declaration. How can we hold each other to obedience to our faith? How might this be rewarding? How might this make things difficult?
- How, beyond signs and symbols, do you make your home sacred space?

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## ACTIVITY - PAINT A SYMBOL FOR YOUR DOOR

- Take an artist's canvas and design in pencil a sign/symbol for your home that proclaims your faith to those that will see it. You can use words, symbols or a picture.
- Paint your canvas, take it home and place it somewhere on or in your home to declare your faith to others, and remind you of your call to faithful living.