



The Purim elements

In addition to the reading of Megillat Esther, there are 3 Mitzvot of Purim:

Code of Jewish Law, Chapter 142:

1. On Purim it is the duty of everyone to send no less than two gifts of food to one friend. The more gifts one sends the more praiseworthy one is. Nevertheless, it is better to give charity to the needy than to make a great feast and to send gifts to one's friends. The portions of food should be able to be eaten without further preparations.
2. Everyone should give at least one gift of charity to two poor persons.
3. Purim should be celebrated by eating, drinking, and having joy. The Purim festive meal should be held during the daytime. Since the whole miracle of Purim occurred through wine: Vashti met her fate at the wine feast and Esther took the crown in her stead, and the downfall of Haman was due to wine, therefore the Rabbis made it obligatory to become intoxicated on Purim.

Trigger questions for Chevruta:

1. Why do you think that Purim is celebrated with such physical activities?
2. The Talmud says that "when wine goes in, secrets come out." Here, drinking is not engaging in debauchery, rather, allowing our hidden side to be revealed. Have you ever had a moment or known someone that while drinking became more spiritual or poetic?
3. The Megillah of Ester starts with the feast of Achashverosh that seems to carry the same aspects as we have in our holiday celebrations: there is a lot of food, endless wine, presents given, and not only for one day- but for seventy!!! But still the sages say that because we took part in the feast, the evil plot of Haman - to destroy all Jews – came upon us. So, how do we make sure that when using all the same elements, we ourselves don't fall into that trap that we now know exists? What was different between that feast and the feast we are going to have on Purim?