

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Artistic Interpretations and the Bible

1. Circle the topic your group has been assigned:
  - Book of Tobit
  - Book of Esther
  - Book of Judith
  - Books of First and Second Maccabees
2. Find five art depictions of the people or events of your group's assigned biblical book. You may use a Google image search and online image databases like *wikiart.org* or *abcgallery.com*. (Note: You may not use any images that appear in the student book.)
3. Ensure that the images you select are substantially different from one another. Ways that images can be different include:
  - time periods
  - artists
  - media (painting, sculpture, etc.)
  - styles of art
  - realistic or abstract
  - countries of origin
  - cultures
4. Study and analyze each image you select, using the following questions as a guide. Take notes on your responses, which should be your group's interpretations of the artwork (meaning you don't need to research your answers).

### Required Questions Part 1: Basic Facts

- a. What is the title of the piece? (Indicate if untitled.)
- b. Where is the piece located? (For example, is it in a museum or church? It is okay to say "unknown.")
- c. Who is the artist? (It is okay to say "anonymous or unknown.")
- d. When (approximately) was it created?
- e. In what medium (oil, pen and ink, fresco, marble, etc.) was the piece created?

### Required Questions Part 2: Evaluation

- a. How does the image depict the biblical story on which it is based? Is it accurate? What is missing? What has been added?
- b. To what extent does the image portray Jews who give witness to their faith in the midst of violence, persecution, or other challenges and struggles?



**Additional Questions** (Choose at least three.)

- a. How are the characters in the image depicted? What emotions are expressed? What attitude is reflected in their body positioning? Are they static or in motion?
  - b. How would you describe the mood of the image? Notice color, shapes, forms, textures, and lines.
  - c. How does the image use light and shadow? What dramatic emphasis do these create?
  - d. What do you think the artist wants us to focus on?
  - e. How does the image depict the passage of time? For example, is it like a snapshot of a single moment, or is it like a storyboard, depicting many moments at once?
5. Prepare a visual and oral presentation that will help your classmates understand how these images portray and interpret the biblical books on which they are based.
- Your visual presentation will consist of slides of your selected images (one image per slide, as large as possible to be seen clearly when projected in the classroom).
  - As each image is displayed, you will share your insights about it (your responses to the questions in step 4). It is okay to refer to print or electronic notes.
  - Each member of your group should speak in the oral presentation.

