

Chanukah Home Celebration



*Blessings, Stories, and Songs
To Enhance Your Chanukah*

with

*Rabbi Paul Kipnes
& Rabbi Lana Zilberman Soloway*

Or Ammi
congregation
you're home

Happy Chanukah

Lighting the Chanukah menorah

Light the *Shamash*, the helper candle, first. Then say two blessings – one for lighting the candles, and one for miracles.



Baruch ata Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
asher kideshanu bemitzvotav
vetzivanu lehadlik ner shel
Chanukah.



Dear God, Creator of our world,
thank You for giving us rules that
make our lives special and for
teaching us to light these
Chanukah candles.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר
קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה

Amen

Use the Shamash to light the other
candles, starting with the newest
candle, on the left.

Baruch ata Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
sheh'asa nisim lavoteinu
bayamim haheim bazman
hazeh



Dear God, Creator of our
world, thank you for performing
miracles for our ancestors,
long ago and now.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שעשה
נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה

Amen



The candles are
placed in the
menorah from
right to left, with
one more candle
added each night.

● If it's the first night of Chanukah,
add a third blessing for celebrating.

Baruch ata Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
shehecheyanu
vekiyemanu
vehigi'anu
lazman hazeh.



Dear God, Creator of our world,
thank you for keeping us
alive so we can celebrate this
important moment.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

Amen



HOW TO PLAY DREIDEL

Supplies:

- Dreidel
- At least 10 tokens per player (tokens can be any small item – dried beans, chocolate coins, pennies, etc.)



To set up, distribute the tokens evenly among the players.

Arrange yourselves in a circle. Have each player put one of their tokens into the center – the “pot.”

Now take turns spinning the dreidel. When it lands, the letter facing up will tell the player what to do:

 **Nun: Nothing.** Don't take from or add to the pot.

 **Gimel: All.** Take all of the tokens from the pot.

 **Hay: Half out.** Take half of the tokens from the pot.

 **Shin: One in.** Add one token to the pot.



Anytime the pot is emptied, each player puts one token back in before the next person spins. As players run out of tokens, they're out – and the last person remaining is the winner!

THE STORY OF CHANUKAH

(For Young Children) Adapted from pjlibrary.org

A long, long time ago in the land of Israel, the most special place for the Jewish people was the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple contained many beautiful objects, including a tall, golden menorah. Unlike menorahs of today, this one had seven (rather than nine) branches. Instead of being lit by candles or light bulbs, this menorah burned oil. Every evening, oil would be poured into the cups that sat on top of the menorah. The Temple would be filled with shimmering light.

At the time of the Hanukkah story, a mean king named Antiochus ruled over the land of Israel. “I don't like these Jewish people,” declared Antiochus. “They are so different from me. I don't celebrate Shabbat or read from the Torah, so why should they?” Antiochus made many new, cruel rules. “No more celebrating Shabbat! No more going to the Temple, and no more Torah!” shouted Antiochus. He told his guards to go into the Temple and make a mess. They brought mud, stones, and garbage into the Temple. They broke furniture and knocked things down; they smashed the jars of oil that were used to light the menorah.

Antiochus and his soldiers made the Jews feel sad and angry. A Jewish man named Judah Maccabee said, “We must stop Antiochus! We must think of ways to make him leave the land of Israel.” At first, Judah's followers, called the Maccabees, were afraid. “Judah,” they said, “Antiochus has so many soldiers. His soldiers carry such big weapons and use huge elephants to fight his battles! How can we Jews, who don't have weapons, fight against him?” Judah said, “If we think very hard and plan very carefully, we will be able to defeat him.” It took a long time, but at last the Maccabees chased Antiochus out of Israel.

As soon as Antiochus and his soldiers were gone, the Jewish people ran to Jerusalem to clean their Temple. What a mess! The beautiful menorah was gone, and the floor was covered with trash, broken furniture, and pieces from the shattered jars of oil. The Maccabees built a new menorah. At first they worried that they would not be able to light their new menorah, but they searched and searched, until at last they found one tiny jar of oil – enough to light the menorah for just one evening. The Maccabees knew that it would be at least eight days before they could get more oil, but they lit the menorah anyway. To their surprise, this little jar of oil burned for eight days. The Jewish people could not believe their good fortune. First, their small army had chased away Antiochus' large army, and now the tiny jar of oil had lasted for eight whole days!

The Jewish people prayed and thanked God for these miracles. Every year during Chanukah, Jews light menorahs for eight days to remember the miracles that happened long ago.

THE STORY OF CHANUKAH *By Judy Soffer* (For Adults and Older Youth)

The story of Chanukah began over two thousand years ago when most of the Mideast was under the influence of the Greeks. The Greeks spread their culture throughout the area. They developed architecture and art. They appreciated philosophy and literature. They enjoyed sports and leisure. The Greeks expected the people in these countries to happily adopt Greek ways while forgetting the ways of their ancestors. This widespread culture was called "Hellenism."

In Judea (now called "Israel") where Jews lived, the spread of Hellenism did not go quite as smoothly. The Jews appreciated many of the benefits that the Greeks had brought. The Jews, however, would not bow down to the idols of the Greeks and would not give up their ancient rituals.

To the Hellenist leader of Judea, the Jews were a peculiar and stubborn people, but since the Jews paid their taxes, they seemed harmless enough. They were allowed to go about their business and worship a nameless, faceless God, *Adonai*. They were allowed their holy Temple and their holy city of Jerusalem. They were allowed to study the Torah and to live as their ancestors had always lived.

Then, in the year 175 B.C.E. (Before the Common Era), a new dynasty came to power. In its throne sat the Assyrian king Antiochus Epiphanes, known as Antiochus IV. He wanted everyone under his rule to be Greek in every way. He made laws that everyone had to bow down to his idols and forbade the Jews from reading Torah and observing Shabbat. If they refused to follow his laws, they would be killed. Though some Jews gave in, others did not. Many Jews died for their beliefs. The Jews were in danger of being wiped out entirely.

In a small town called Modi'in, there lived a brave man, Mattithias. He saw the horrors that Antiochus and his army brought.

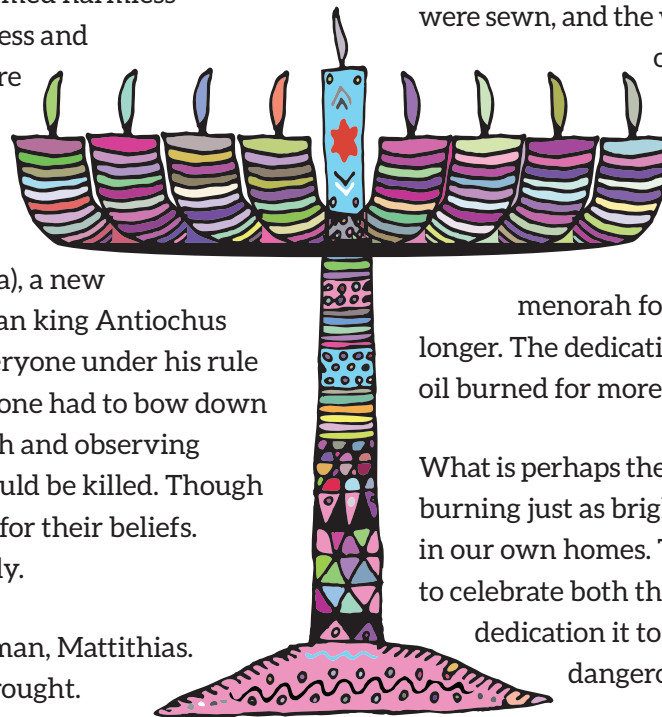
Mattithias, his sons, and a group of Jewish followers fled to the hills. Other Jewish families joined them. They decided to rebel against King Antiochus' rule and began to teach themselves to fight back. Mattithias died during this struggle but his son Judah took his place as leader. Judah and all his followers became known as the Maccabees, because "Maccabee" means "hammer," and Judah and his followers struck at Antiochus' army with heavy blows. The Maccabees fought on against the armies of Antiochus. They fought for three difficult long years, finally making their way into Jerusalem to reclaim the Holy Temple.

When the Maccabees arrived in Jerusalem, they immediately began cleaning the desecrated Temple. They swept out the filth and shards of shattered pottery. They pushed out the statues and idols. They tore down the crumbled, polluted altar and built a clean, new one, according to ancient law. Potters and metal workers busied themselves making candlesticks, incense burners, and pots for sacred oil. Children helped pull up weeds and plant flowers in the outside courtyard, new curtains were sewn, and the walls and floors were scrubbed inside and out. Finally,

on the twenty-fifth day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, the Jerusalem Temple was ready. In the year 164 B.C.E., the Maccabees dedicated the Temple and offered sacrifices to God. The celebration was to last eight glorious days. According to one story, they only found enough pure oil to light the

menorah found to last for one day. And miraculously it lasted longer. The dedication festivities went on without interruption as the oil burned for more than a week.

What is perhaps the greatest miracle of all is that those lights are still burning just as brightly today as we continue to celebrate Chanukah in our own homes. The word *Chanukah* has come to mean *rededication* to celebrate both the rededication of the Holy Temple, and also the dedication it took the Maccabees to persevere in difficult and dangerous times.



REFLECT: BECOME A LAMPLIGHTER

At Or Ami, we teach that Jews and Jewish families are called to be lamplighters, shining the way forward to our enduring Jewish values. Alone, with friends, or with family, reflect upon how you will rededicate yourself to becoming a lamplighter.

Consider:

Chesed (kindness): How will I kindle **kindness** in my home, my community, and my world?

Rachamim (compassion): In what 2 ways will my **compassion** toward others burn even more brightly?

Tzedek (justice): In what 2 ways will I stand up, becoming a beacon for **justice**?

Emet (truth): How will I speak truth to power, illuminating truth in the face of falsehood?

8 RITUALS FOR 8 NIGHTS OF CHANUKAH

Resist the urge to allow Chanukah to become just 1 minute of candle lighting and 3 minutes of gift opening.

Rabbi Paul Kipnes teaches: *One does not fully celebrate Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, unless one does 8 rituals over the 8 nights:*

- 1 Light the **candles** and puts the Chanukiyah (Chanukah menorah) in the window to publicize the miracle.
- 2 Tell the Chanukah **story** and sing **songs**. Download at orami.org/Chanukah
- 3 Eat **latkes or sufganiot** (jelly-filled donuts). Recipes at orami.org/Chanukah
- 4 Give **presents**. Cool to give, cool to get. But be wary of becoming too materialistic.
- 5 Have **Parents' Night**. Choose one night only for kids to give to parents to teach our children Jewish values of *kibud av v'em* (honoring one's parents).
- 6 Give **Tzedakah** (charitable giving). Choose one night for only giving *tzedakah* to others.
- 7 Play the **dreidel** game. Through sacred play, we reteach that *Nes Gadol Haya Sham, a great miracle happened there*. Play with chocolate gelt, raisins and nuts or M&M's, and the spoils are tasty too.
- 8 Celebrate with community. **Come to Congregation Or Ami's multi-generational Chanukah celebration**. Bring a Chanukiyah to light. Info at orami.org/RSVP



For everything you need to celebrate Chanukah, see Or Ami's Chanukah resources page at orami.org/Chanukah.

DEDICATE YOUR CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Jewish traditions encourages us *kivein et libeinu* (to direct our hearts) toward holiness. We dedicate our Chanukah celebration to people (deceased or living) and for purpose and intention. Before each night of Chanukah, dedicate:

I dedicate tonight's candle to:



My *kavannah* (purpose or intention) for this year's Chanukah service is to:

I Have a Little Dreidel

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play...

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of ice
It melted when I spun it
And that wasn't very nice

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of straw
It went 80 miles an hour
And it broke the speeding law

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of sand
But when I tried to spin it
It crumbled in my hand

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of dirt
When I was finished playing
I had to change my shirt

I have a little dreidel
It made out of a bush
But when I tried to spin it
It knocked on my tush

I have a little dreidel
It's made out of a broom
It sweeps up while it's spinning
I hope it does my room

I have a little dreidel
Chocolate covered treat
Forget about the spinning
Let's just sit down and eat

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of glue
The baby tried to spin it
And now she's spinning too

I have a little dreidel
Boy you should see it twirl
It really made me dizzy
I think I'm gonna hurl

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of ants
But when I tried to spin it
They crawled right up my pants

I have a little dreidel
I made it in my mind
Imaginary dreidel
It's the hardest one to find

I have a little dreidel
I keep it on the shelf
If you want anymore verses
You can make them up yourself



Oh Chanukah

Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah,
Come light the menorah
Let's have a party
We'll all dance the hora
Gather 'round the table
We'll give you a treat
Sevimon to play with and latkes to eat
And while we are playing
The candles are burning low
One for each night
They shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago

Rock of Ages

New words by Julie Silver

Rock of ages hear our song
Rock of ages hear my song
Rock of ages hear our song
Rock of ages hear my song
Rock of ages hear our song
Of peaceful revolution
Tired of battles fierce and long
We yearn for resolution
We are young and learning
But the tide is turning
And the words light a fire
Within our souls it is burning

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