

**UNIVERSITY
SYNAGOGUE**
Religious School

HAPPY HANUKKAH - חַנּוּכָּה שְׂמֵחָה

University Synagogue Religious School

Hanukkah Packet

December 2015 – Kislev 5776



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The Story of Hanukkah



Every year between the end of November and the end of December, Jewish people around the world celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, but the starting date on the western calendar varies from year to year. The holiday celebrates the events which took place over 2,300 years ago in the land of Judea, which is now Israel.

Long ago in the land of Judea there was a Syrian king, Antiochus. The king ordered the Jewish people to reject their God, their religion, their customs and their beliefs and to worship the Greek gods. There were some who did as they were told, but many refused. One who refused was Judah Maccabee.

Judah and his four brothers formed an army and chose as their name the word "Maccabee", which means hammer. After three years of fighting, the Maccabees were finally successful in driving the Syrians out of Israel and reclaimed the Temple in Jerusalem. The Maccabees wanted to clean the building and to remove the hated Greek symbols and statues. On the 25th day of the month of Kislev, the job was finished and the temple was rededicated.

When Judah and his followers finished cleaning the temple, they wanted to light the eternal light, known as the Ner Tamid, which is present in every Jewish house of worship. Once lit, the oil lamp should never be extinguished.

A Talmudic folktale records that a tiny jug of oil was found with enough oil for only a single day. The oil lamp was filled and lit. Then a miracle occurred as the tiny amount of oil stayed lit not for one day, but for eight days.

Jews celebrate Hanukkah to mark the victory over the Syrians and the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple. The Festival of the Lights, Hanukkah, lasts for eight days to commemorate the miracle of the survival of the Jewish people. The word Hanukkah means "rededication."

In America, families celebrate Hanukkah at home. They give and receive gifts, decorate the house, entertain friends and family, eat special foods made with oil, and light the hanukkiyah.

The Real Hanukkah Story & History: For Adults!

Consider Hanukkah's place in the Jewish year: a minor holiday not commanded by the Torah, barely mentioned by the Talmud. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are holidays for the soul. Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot recall the forging of the Jewish people through their journey from Egyptian slavery to Israel and freedom. Hanukkah, along with Purim, recalls the later story of being Jewish in a non-Jewish world, a world where Judea could not simply close its borders against an increasingly globalized civilization. If the theme of Purim is physical survival despite outside threats, Hanukkah is about the survival of the Jewish spirit - with a healthy dose of physical resistance thrown in for good measure.

How does a community maintain its identity in relation to the broader culture? How much should outside influences be resisted, and how much embraced? How much do we depend upon God to save us and how much upon ourselves? These were the questions that burned in the Jewish mind in the time of the Maccabees more than 2100 years ago. It was the renewed relevance of these questions which propelled Hanukkah, for centuries a minor festivity, to a central place in the Jewish calendar of the 20th century.

Hanukkah: The History

The basic story of Hanukkah is well known: In the year 167 b.c.e., Antiochus IV, ruler of the third of Alexander's Greek empire that included Syria and Israel, banned circumcision and Sabbath observance, and introduced pagan worship into the Temple in Jerusalem. Mattathias, a priest in the small town of Modi'in, refused an order to worship a sacrifice, slayed both a Jew who joined in the pagan worship and the king's agent, and fled to the hills to launch a guerrilla rebellion that was continued after his death by his son, Judah Maccabee.

After two years, the rebels succeeded in reconquering Jerusalem. On the third anniversary of the Temple's desecration it was rededicated in an eight day celebration. According to the Talmud it was at this time that a single undefiled flask of olive oil was found for lighting the Temple candelabrum (menorah). Miraculously, the oil, sufficient for only one day, burnt for eight.

The Real Story

The real history story is much more convoluted.

The Maccabean revolt wasn't strictly a revolt against Antiochus: Antiochus' decrees against Jewish practice were imposed at the behest of a group of Jews who wanted to be part of the Greek civilization. These Jews resented that Jewish law was the law of the land, endorsed, until then, by the empire. This clash was less a war of liberation from the Greeks than an actual civil war.

While Judah Maccabee fought against the Jewish high priest Jason, who readily introduced pagan worship to the Temple, he was also at odds with the faithful who preferred to die than to fight on the Sabbath. Having won the victory for Jewish tradition against newfangled Greek civilization, he proceeded to institute a new holiday.

The Maccabees' mixture of spiritual and military resistance took ironic turns through the remaining generations of Jewish independence. The generation that followed Judah and Simon bore Greek names. As rulers, they expanded the borders of the Jewish state - and forcibly converted the peoples they conquered to

Judaism. They also came into conflict with the rabbis who thought political leaders should be descendants of the House of David. The Maccabees proved as flawed as any other dynasty. Through misuse of power and infighting, ultimately they paved the way for Roman rule and a halt to Jewish independence that lasted 1900 years.

Evolution of Hanukkah

Hanukkah has undergone many transformations between the first Temple Rededication and the Rugsrats Hanukkah special.

Originally both a religious and military celebration, the military victory was all-but ignored by the rabbis of the Mishna and Talmud, for whom the most important part was the miracle of the Temple's rededication.

In the Middle Ages, the idea of martyrdom, a real issue for Jews living in Christian persecution, came to the fore, with the stories of Hannah and her seven sons.

With the invention of playing cards and gambling, Hanukkah became a time of lighthearted gaming - as experienced through the dreidel.

A hundred years ago, Hanukkah was drafted to serve two projects for defining Jewish identity in a non-Jewish world.

In Russia, Zionist nationalists retold the story of Hanukkah to emphasize the victories of the Maccabees, as military heroes who made Jewish history by taking up arms and taking Jewish history in their own hands. This version can be heard most explicitly in a Zionist song which secularized a Biblical hymn: "Mi yimalel -- Who can retell the heroic deeds of Israel?"

Having decided to fight to liberate Israel for the first time in centuries, the Zionists gave the Maccabees mythic significance as the original Jewish superheroes, if not faster than a speeding bullet, at least able to uproot 50-foot trees on horseback.

In America, Henrietta Szold and others fighting to revitalize American Judaism seized upon Hanukkah - with its congruence to the increasingly important American Christmas holiday - to symbolize the American ideal of religious freedom and the Jewish necessity of minority religious pluralism.

The Bottom Line

So what does Hanukkah mean to us?

Really, the question is, what does Hanukkah mean to you -- and what do you want to teach your children?

Hanukkah can be

- a celebration of God's salvation
- a celebration of protecting Jewish uniqueness
- a celebration of Jews fighting for themselves and their religion
- a celebration of our difference
- a celebration of Jewish power
- a time for giving gifts
- a season of light in the darkest time of the year

Kindling the Festival Lights: The Hanukkah Blessings

Directions on how to set up and light your hanukkiyah:

Candles are added to the hanukkiyah from right to left but are lit from left to right. The newest candle is lit first.

First light the *shamash* (the helper candle, set higher or lower than all the rest of the candles); then use it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights.

When Shabbat falls during Hanukkah, light and bless the Hanukkah candles **first** then light and bless the Shabbat candles.

Blessings:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוֵּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe; You make us holy with your mitzvot, and command us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ וּלְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she-asah nisim la-avoteinu u-l'imoteinu ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man hazeh.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe; You showed wonders to our fathers and mothers in this season in days of old.

On the first night only, we add:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu v'kiymanu v'higiyanu la-z'man hazeh.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.



Hanukkah Songs

As you light the Hanukkah candles, extend the joy of Hanukkah with these fun songs!

Hanukkah! Oh Hanukkah!

Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah, come light the Menorah
 Let's have a party, we'll all dance the hora
 Gather round the table, we'll all have a treat
 Sivivon to play with, and latkes to eat.

And while we are playing
 The candles are burning bright
 One for each night, they shed a sweet light
 To remind us of days long ago.
 One for each night, they shed a sweet light
 To remind us of days long ago.

Maoz Tzur - Rock of Ages

<p>מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נָאֵה לְשַׁבַּח, תִּכְוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח, לַעֲת תִּכְוִן מִטְּבַח מִצָּר הַמְּנַבַּח, אֶז אֶגְמַר בְּשִׁיר מְזִמּוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּזִבַּח. אֶז אֶגְמַר בְּשִׁיר מְזִמּוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּזִבַּח.</p>	<p>Maoz tzur yeshua-ti Lecha na-eh li-sha-beyach Tikon bait ti-fee-lati Vi-sham todah ni-za-beyach. Li-ait ta-chin mat-beyach Mee-tzar ham-na-beyach Az eg-mor b'sheer meez-mor Hanukkat ha-meez-beyach Az eg-mor b'sheer meez-mor Hanukkat ha-meez-beyach.</p>
<p>Rock of ages, let our song Praise Your saving power; You, amid the raging foes, Were our sheltering tower.</p>	<p>Furious they assailed us, But Your arm availed us, And Your word, broke their sword, When our own strength failed us.</p>

Hanukkah, Hanukkah

<p>חֲנֻכָּה, חֲנֻכָּה חַג יָפֵה כּוֹל כָּךְ אוֹר חֲבִיב מְסֻבִּיב גִּיל לְיֶלֶד רָךְ חֲנֻכָּה, חֲנֻכָּה סְבִיבוֹן סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב! סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב! מָה נְעִים וְטוֹב.</p>	<p>Hanukkah, Hanukkah Chag yafeh kol kach Ohr chaviv, mi-saviv Gil li-yeled rach. Hanukkah, Hanukkah Sivivon, sov, sov Sov, sov, sov! Sov, sov, sov! Ma nayim v-tov.</p>
<p>Hanukkah, Hanukkah, Festival of Light Celebrate, Dedicate for eight days and nights. Hanukkah, Hanukkah Sivivon, sov, sov Sov, sov, sov! Sov, sov, sov! Sing with all your might!</p>	

Ocho Kandelikas

<p>Hanukkah linda sta aki, ocho kandelas para mi, O...</p> <p>Una kandelika, dos kandelikas, tres kandelikas, kuatro kandelikas, sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas, siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi.</p> <p>Muchas fiestas vo fazer, con alegrias i plazer. O...</p> <p>Una kandelika...</p> <p>Los pastelikos vo kumer, con almendrikas i la myel. O...</p> <p>Una kandelika...</p>	<p>Beautiful Hanukkah is here, eight candles for me.</p> <p>One candle, two candles, three candles, four candles, five candles, six candles, seven candles, eight candles for me.</p> <p>Many parties will be held, with joy and with pleasure.</p> <p>One candle . . .</p> <p>We will eat pastelikos [a Sephardic delicacy] with almonds and honey.</p> <p>One candle . .</p>
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I Have a Little Dreidel

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

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when my dreidel's tired
It drops and then I win!
(Chorus)

My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin!
(Chorus)



Sivivon Sov Sov Sov

<p>סְבִיבוֹן סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חַג טוֹב חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חַג טוֹב, סְבִיבוֹן סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב</p> <p>חַג שִׂמְחָה הוּא לְעַם נֵס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם נֵס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם חַג שִׂמְחָה הוּא לְעַם</p>	<p>Sivivon, sov, sov, sov Hanukkah, hu chag tov Hanukkah, hu chag tov Sivivon, sov, sov, sov!</p> <p>Chag simcha hu la-am Nes gadol haya sham Nes gadol haya sham Chag simcha hu la-am.</p>
<p>Dreidel, spin, spin, spin. Hanukkah is a great holiday. It is a celebration for our nation. A great miracle happened there. (Israel!)</p>	

Eight Values of Hanukkah

On Hanukkah we celebrate our freedom to be Jews. Being Jewish means not only lighting a hanukkiyah, but it also means acting in accordance with Jewish values. Choose a different value each night and discuss it with your family. Try to think of at least three ways you can make each idea come alive in your home, school, or workplace. Write your responses on the following pages. At the end of Hanukkah, fill out your Hanukkah “certificate” and hang it proudly on your ‘fridge!

Mitzvah: Commitment to religious observance

Mattahias and his followers were determined to observe Jewish law. They were willing to fight for that right.

What *mitzvot* and traditions are you committed to observing?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Emunah: Faith

The followers of the Maccabees had faith that God would help them overcome their enemies, no matter how many or how powerful those enemies were. **In what way do you express your *emunah* in God?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Tikkun Olam: Making the world a better place

The followers of the Maccabees were committed to the ideal that Jewish values and behaviors bring about a better world for all. They believed that they had a responsibility to act as God’s partners in perfecting the world. **How do you contribute to perfecting the world?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Hiddur Mitzvah: Performing a *mitzvah* in a more ideal way

When the Jews regained the Temple, they devoted themselves to cleaning and purifying it to the utmost degree possible. Although it was permissible to use impure oil to rekindle the hanukkiyah, the Jews preferred to wait until pure olive oil arrived. **What do you do to make your holiday observance ideal?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Hakarat Hatov: Gratitude

The original celebration of Hanukkah showed appreciation of God's help in defeating the Greeks and today many Jewish communities recite psalms of praise, *Hallel*, during the eight days of Hanukkah. **What are things that you appreciate? How do you show this appreciation?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Am Yisrael Chai: Jewish Pride

Mattahias and his followers were proud to be Jews and to live in a Jewish way. They were determined to continue to do so. **How do you show your determination to continue to live as a Jew?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

G'vurah: Standing up for your beliefs

Although ill-equipped and greatly outnumbered, the Jews fought against the powerful Syrian-Greek army with its trained soldiers and plentiful equipment. **In what ways do you stand up for your beliefs even if people disagree with you?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

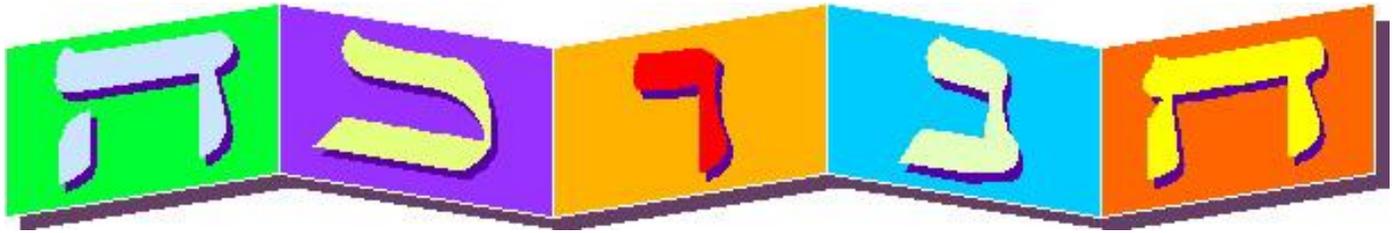
Kiddush HaShem: Behaving in a way that brings honor to God

In everything that they did, the Maccabees served as an example of what God expects of people. **In what ways do your actions bring honor to God?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

What are some Jewish values NOT included in this list that you would like to "act" on?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)



Hanukkah means “dedication” - each night of Hanukkah we discussed different Jewish values that we intend to bring to light and life.
 List a few of these values and actions below.

Jewish Values in Our Lives	Actions we intend to take
	<div style="text-align: center;">?</div>

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(please sign your names below)

Hanukkah Glossary

Hanukkah: “Dedication” in Hebrew. When the Jews had defeated the Syrians, their first act was to cleanse the Temple in Jerusalem and remove the various pagan symbols and idols from it. They then held a ceremony dedicating the Temple once again to God. The holiday derives its name from that ceremony.

Judah Maccabee: The name comes from the first letters of the Hebrew prayer *Mi Chamocha* -

מִי כָמוֹכָה בְּאֵלִים יי

- *Mi chamocha ba-elim Adonai*

Who is like You, Adonai?

inscribed on the Maccabean battle banner. Another reason that Judah was called the Maccabee is that he struck with the force of a mighty hammer, or *makav*, in Hebrew. Judah became known as “The Hammer” - or the Maccabee.

Maccabees: Hebrew soldiers who fought the Syrians. Named after their leader, Judah the Maccabee.

Menorah: Candle holder with only seven places for candles. These candelabra are often seen as decorations in synagogues, and indeed served such a purpose in the Temple.

Hanukkiyah: Special menorah for Hanukkah - it contains nine places for candles - one of which (the Shamash) is raised above the others. Each of the eight regular candles represents one of the eight days of Hanukkah.

Dreidel: A four-sided top used on Hanukkah. Each side has a different Hebrew letter: נ (nun), ג (gimmel), ה (hei), and ש (shin) - which stands for נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם (*nes gadol haya sham*), “A great miracle happened there.” In Israel, dreidels don’t have a ש (shin), but rather a פ (pay) - which stands for נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה פֹּה (*nes gadol haya poh*), “A great miracle happened here.”

Shamash: Helper candle used to light all the other candles.

Latkes: Potato pancakes. Traditional Hanukkah delicacy.

Mattathias: the Priest who started the revolt against the Syrians. Father of Judah Maccabee.

Suf-ganiyot: Fried donuts that are filled with custard or jelly. A Hanukkah treat!

Hand-print Hanukkah – Don't be afraid to get a little messy!



Materials needed:

Paints – Blue and Orange

Paper

Step 1 – Paint hands blue!

Step 2 – Press hands down on paper, thumbs touching

Step 3 – Wash hands, then paint one fingertip orange

Step 4 – With one orange finger, press on top of blue menorah fingers (making the flames)

Step 5 – Wash hands and admire!