



Temple Rodef Shalom

Celebrate Chanukah

It's time to celebrate Chanukah! We have created this packet to help you enjoy the holiday!



Additional Resources

Please visit the TRS website www.templerodefshalom.org, Facebook & Pinterest sites for more information about celebrating Chanukah including:

- ❖ Music lyrics and links to download your own Chanukah music
- ❖ Recipes including a video on making latkes
- ❖ Virtual Menorah with audio of the Chanukah blessings
- ❖ Parent packet for Chanukah
- ❖ Family activities for each night of Chanukah
- ❖ Chanukah guide and resources for interfaith families

The Meaning of Chanukah

Chanukah, meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews commemorate the victory of the Macabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "re-dedication" of the Temple in Jerusalem. The modern home celebration of Chanukah centers around the lighting of the *chanukiah*, a special menorah for Chanukah; unique foods, latkes and jelly doughnuts; and special songs and games.

Almost 2200 years ago in the small town of Modi'in, an amazing story begins. The story tells of the struggle for religious freedom and the legendary passion of a small group of Jews who dared to say "no!" After three years of fighting against the Syrian-Greek army, the Temple was cleaned, purified, and rededicated on the 25th of Kislev. An eight-day festival was proclaimed - to remember the victory with gladness and joy.

The Lights of Chanukah

The lights of Chanukah are the lights of freedom. In times of darkness, our ancestors found the courage to struggle for freedom: freedom to be Jews and to worship as Jews. Theirs was a victory of the weak over the strong, the few over the many, the committed over the arrogant. It was a victory for us, for had they not succeeded, we would not now be able to light the Chanukah lights.

The lights of Chanukah are the light of God's presence in our lives, inspiring and strengthening us, as God inspired our ancestors to be courageous and strong.

The story of Chanukah is one of a great miracle. The sages recounted the miracle of a small jar of oil, only enough to burn for one day, which miraculously lasted for eight days. We know that the true miracle was the survival of our people and the Jewish way of life. The miracle continues and we are blessed to participate in it as we pass Jewish tradition along to the next generation.

FAQ's about Lighting the Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah)

How should the Chanukah candles be placed in the menorah?

Always place candles in the menorah beginning from the far right and continuing to the left.

What is the order of the kindling of the Chanukah lights?

The Chanukah candles are kindled from left to right so that the newest candle is the first lit.

When should the Chanukah candles be kindled?

“Immediately at the appearance of the stars” if possible. Later in the evening if necessary, but always “before any member of the household — adult or child — goes to sleep.” On Friday evening, the Chanukah candles are kindled before we light the Shabbat candles.

Where do you place the Chanukah menorah?

In front of a window in order to “publicize the miracle” of Chanukah.

Blessings

The chanukiah is fashioned to hold nine candles; the ninth candle is called the Shamash (helper) and it is used to light the other candles. On the first night we kindle one candle with the Shamash, the second night light two, and so on until all eight candles are lit.

Baruch Ata Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner
shel Chanukah.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who makes us holy with commandments and has commanded us to light the Chanukah lights.

Ba-ruch Ata Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam
she'asa nisim la'avoteinu bayamim hahem
bazman hazeh.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמֶן הַזֶּה

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe for having brought miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time.

Shehechyanu for the First Night Only

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch Ata Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam shehechyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu, lazman hazeh.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe for giving us life, sustaining us, and helping us reach this joyous time.

Readings

Consider one of the following readings to enhance your Chanukah celebration. Feel free to create your own reading or add to those below and feel free to be creative!

A Light to the Nations

It is with gladness and joy that we come together to celebrate our Festival of Light. Let us learn from the Maccabees. Let us rededicate ourselves on this Chanukah night - to banishing apathy, and to strengthening our Jewish community. Let us work together to ensure a strong future for our children and for our people. Let the passion of the Maccabees burn within us so that we can work towards freedom for all people and truly become “or la-goyim” - a light to the nations.

Where Is Holiness?

There is holiness when we strive to be true to the best we know.

There is holiness when we are kind to others.

There is holiness when we promote family harmony.

There is holiness when we forget what divides us and remember what unites us.

There is holiness when we are willing to be laughed at for what we believe in.

There is holiness when we love -- truly, honestly, and unselfishly.

There is holiness when we remember the lonely and bring cheer into a dark corner.

There is holiness when we share -- our bread, our ideas, and our enthusiasms.

There is holiness when our actions help us connect to God.

Chanukah Blessings for Each Night

First Night- Freedom

We kindle these Chanukah lights in memory of the dedication and courage of the Maccabees. We rededicate ourselves to work for the equal rights of all people and for the realization of a society of democracy and freedom.

Second Night- Family

As we celebrate together we are conscious of our precious gift of family. We rededicate ourselves to sharing our interests and time with one another. Through kindness and thoughtfulness, our love for one another will grow.

Third Night- Study

Tonight we rededicate ourselves to the study of our tradition. As the Maccabees courageously fought to preserve our faith, we too are duty bound to sustain our heritage. By increasing our knowledge of Judaism we become more sensitive to its abiding values and more aware of our responsibility to realize these values in our society.

Fourth Night- Hope

In hope, a person's future is illuminated and made creative. Today, many live in fear and great despair. Like the Maccabees, we need to build our lives on hope. May our eyes be directed to the loftiest visions of our faith.

Fifth Night- Good Works

Our tradition tells us that during the Maccabean war for freedom, all Jews, both children and adults, contributed toward the cause of defeating the oppressor. Many forms of oppression still exist in our world today. There are people afflicted by sickness, hunger, ignorance, and prejudice. Tonight we put aside gifts of *tzedakah* in order that we may help to bring an end to oppression. Let us rededicate ourselves to the ideal of *tzedakah*, righteousness and justice, found in our Jewish tradition.

Sixth Night- Shalom

Today one of our foremost tasks is to secure peace in our troubled world. When we end disagreements through mutual understanding, when we seek to mend hurt and wounded feelings, we make peace a living ideal. Let us rededicate ourselves, renewed to the task of securing peace.

Seventh Night- Peoplehood

Peoplehood is founded upon a total respect for the liberty and freedom of all people. The Maccabees of old sought to protect themselves when their rights were violated. Our Chanukah lights serve as a reminder that peoplehood is secure only when we honor the precious liberty and property of our fellow human beings. We rededicate ourselves to the causes that bring dignity to all people.

Eighth Night- Faith

Tonight we kindle all the candles of our *chanukiah*. Like the Maccabees, when they celebrated this festive holiday, we rededicate ourselves to living a more meaningful Jewish life. Throughout this coming year we will work to fulfill the ideals of freedom, *tzedakah*, family, study, hope, shalom and peoplehood, all of which are symbolized by the candles of our Menorah.

Songs

Ma-Oz Tzur

Ma-oz tzur y'-shu-a-ti,
Le-cha na-eh l'-sha-bei-ach.
Ti-kon beit t'-fi-la-ti,
Ve-sham to-dah n'-za-bei-ach.
L'-eit ta-chin mat-bei-ach,
Mi-tzar ham'-na-bei-ach,
Az eg-mor b'-shir miz-mor,
Cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ach. (2x)

מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי, לְךָ נִאְחָה לְשִׁבְחֲךָ
תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי, וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּחֲךָ.
לֵעֵת תִּכְיִן מִטְּבִיחַ מִצָּר הַמְּנִיבֶךָ.
אֲז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּיחַ.

Rock of ages, let our song praise Your saving power;
You, amid the raging foes, were our sheltering tower.
Furious they assailed us, but Your arm availed us,
And Your word broke their sword, when our own strength failed us. (2x)

Oh Chanukah

O Chanukah, O 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 –
Dreidles 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.
One for each night they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.



Not By Might (Debbie Friedman)

Not by might and not by power
But by spirit alone (clap clap) shall we all live in peace! (2x)

The children sing, the children dream
And their tears may fall, but we'll hear them call
And another song will rise,
Another song will rise (2x)

S'vivo

S'vivo sov, sov, sov,
Chanukah hu chag tov.
Chanukah hu chag tov,
S'vivo sov, sov, sov.

Chag simcha hu la-am
Neis gadol hayah sham.
Neis gadol hayah sham
Chag simcha hu la-am.

(Dreidle, spin, spin, spin. Chanukah is a holiday of joy. A great miracle happened there.)

Lots of Latkes (Allen Leider)

1. Lots of latkes (3x), lots
Let's all eat 'em up!
2. S'vivo sov sov (4x)
3. Maccabee (6x)
Mac, mac, mac, mac...