



HANUKKAH 2019 • 5780

Spread the Light:

Hanukkah is all about light – Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration, also known as the Festival of Lights, that marks the victory of a small band of Jews called the Maccabees over the Syrian Greek Empire in the second century BCE. During this time, the Greeks sought to assimilate the people of Israel by forbidding Torah learning and Jewish practice. The Maccabees revolted and ultimately overpowered the Greeks and reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Our tradition tells us that when the Jews attempted to rededicate the holy space by lighting the Temple menorah (Hanukkah means rededication in Hebrew), they found only one vial of pure oil. However, that small vial miraculously burned for eight days and nights. To commemorate and publicize this miracle, and the wonder of winning the war, our Sages instituted the festival of Hanukkah.

Activity:

We are inviting you to spread the light. For this activity each of the participants should have a candle – one person will start and share what brought them light this past day / week / month and will light their candle. Once their candle is lit, they will then light someone else's candle. That person will then share what brought them light and will light someone else's candle. This goes on until everyone shared what brought light to them. For the best effect--the room should be as dark as possible.

