

LIGHTING THE CHANUKAH CANDLES



1. The candles are added to the chanukiyah from right to left.
To display the miracle, place your chanukiyah in public view.
2. Kindle the lights using the shamash (helper candle), which is usually set higher than the rest.
3. The candles should be kindled from left to right with the newest candle lit first.

First blessing:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של
חנכה.

Baruch Atah, Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadliker shel Chanukah.

Praised are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who makes us holy with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Second blessing:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בימן הזה.

Baruch Atah, Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, sheh'asahnisim la'avoteinu ba'yamim ha'heim baz'man ha'zeh.

Praised are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

Third blessing (first night only)

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לימן הזה.

Baruch Atah, Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, sheh'heh'chey'yanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man ha'zeh.

Praised are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Maoz Tzur:

מעוז צור ישועתי לך נאה לשבח, תכון בית תפילתי ושם תודה
נזבח. לעת תכין מטבח מצר המנבח. אז אנמור בשיר מזמור
חנכת המזבח.

Maoz tzur y'shuati l'cha naeh l'shabeach, Tikon beit t'filati v'sham todah n'zabeach. Leit tachin matbeach mitzar hamnabeach, Az egmor b'shir mizmor chanukat hamizbeach.

Rock of ages, to praise You is a delight. Restore my House of Prayer and there we will bring a thanksgiving offering. When You will have prepared the slaughter for the blaspheming foe, Then I shall complete with a song of hymn the dedication of the Altar.

For audio of these blessings, and a copy of our Kids' Activity Booklet: tbi.org.au/pray/festivals/chanukah/

THE DREIDEL GAME

When the Syrian-Greeks ruled the land of Israel they decreed that the teaching or studying of Torah was a crime punishable by death or imprisonment. But the children defiantly studied in secret; and when Syrian-Greek patrols were spotted, they would pretend to be playing an innocent game of dreidel (spinning tops).

Later, the dreidel was reintroduced as a special treat for children. During the long winter nights of Chanukah they are given a respite from their studies and given this special Chanukah toy with which to wile away the time.

The dreidel is a four-sided spinning top, also called a **טביבון** in Hebrew. It is traditionally used to play a lively Chanukah game. The dreidel has on its four sides, letters that tell the Chanukah message: a great miracle happened there - as if to say, “Play children, enjoy your beautiful gifts and your even more beautiful holiday. But remember, it was given us as a miracle by God, our Creator and we will show our gratitude with renewed dedication to Him.”

In Israel, the dreidel bears the letters Nun, Gimel Hay, and Pay standing for: “Nes Gadol Hayah Po”, a great miracle happened here. In the Diaspora, (around the world), however, the dreidel says the letters Nun, Gimel Hay, and Shin meaning “Nes Gadol Hayah Sham”, a great miracle happened there (in Israel). So even the dreidel is no idle toy. As it spins, it delivers a message.

This game is best played in groups of 4-6. Each player gets an equal number of pennies, nuts, M&Ms, or whatever you wish to use. Each player puts one in the centre for the “pot.” Each player rolls the dreidel. If it lands on:

Nun = NOTHING: the player gets nothing.

Hay = HALF: the player takes half of the pot.

Gimel = GETS: the player takes all of the pot.

Shin = SHARE: the player puts an M&M (nut, poker chip) into the pot.

Each time the pot is emptied out, each player puts in an M&M (nut, poker chip) and the game continues.

