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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Mo'edim – Hanukkah

TEACHING SUMMARY

Hanukkah is not one of YHWH's appointed mo'edim listed in Leviticus 23. Like Purim, it is a historical memorial instituted by the Jewish people.

The word "Hanukkah" means "dedication." It commemorates the rededication of the Temple after it had been defiled by Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

Antiochus outlawed Torah observance, prohibited Sabbath keeping, circumcision, and dietary obedience, and erected an altar to Zeus in the Temple. Many faithful Jews were tortured and killed for remaining obedient.

Mattathias and his sons led a revolt. Under Judah Maccabee, the Temple was liberated and cleansed. An eight-day celebration was declared to commemorate the rededication.

Hanukkah reminds believers:

- The character of the antichrist
- The importance of faithfulness under persecution
- That oppression against Torah obedience is not new
- That deliverance comes from YHWH

Hanukkah is not commanded in Torah. Therefore:

- It should not be forced on anyone.
- No one should be condemned for observing or not observing it.
- It does not determine whether someone is set apart.

It is a memorial of deliverance and dedication.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Hanukkah means “dedication.”
 - It commemorates the rededication of the Temple.
 - Antiochus outlawed Torah observance.
 - Faithful Jews were persecuted for obedience.
 - The Maccabees led a revolt.
 - The Temple was cleansed and restored.
 - Hanukkah lasts eight days.
 - It is not a commanded mo’ed.
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FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The word “Hanukkah” means _____.
 2. Hanukkah commemorates the _____ of the Temple.
 3. Antiochus outlawed observance of the _____.
 4. The revolt was led by Mattathias and his son _____.
 5. The Temple had been defiled with an altar to _____.
 6. Hanukkah is not one of YHWH’s appointed _____.
 7. Hanukkah lasts _____ days.
 8. Faithful Jews were persecuted for keeping the _____, eating clean, and circumcision.
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Challenging

1. Antiochus IV is often viewed as a type of the future _____.
2. The Temple services were stopped for _____ years.
3. Yeshua was present at the Feast of _____ in John 10.
4. The hanukkiyah contains _____ candles.

5. The central candle is called the _____.
 6. Some traditional prayers incorrectly state that YHWH _____ the lighting of Hanukkah candles.
 7. Memorializing historical events is not forbidden unless it violates the _____.
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GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is Antiochus considered a type of antichrist?
2. Why do oppressive rulers often target Torah obedience first?
3. What does Hanukkah teach about faith under persecution?
4. Why should Hanukkah not divide believers?
5. How can traditions unintentionally cross into adding to Torah?
6. What parallels do you see between Hanukkah and end-time prophecy?
7. How can we remain faithful if obedience becomes costly?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Dedication
2. Rededication
3. Torah
4. Judah (Maccabee)
5. Zeus
6. Mo'edim
7. Eight
8. Sabbath

Challenging

1. Antichrist
2. Three and a half
3. Dedication
4. Nine
5. Shammash
6. Commanded
7. Torah