



SPREAD THE LIGHT

**FAMILY HANUKKAH
LEARNING ACTIVITIES**



HAPPY HANUKKAH!

Dear JFE Family,

Happy Hanukkah! We are so happy that you are joining us for our Family Hanukkah Workshop! We are also so very grateful to be in person together with you!

You will be learning this packet together with your family and we will begin together as a group with a short video.

Each page contains learning materials and questions for discussions for you to read together as a family. There are two sides to every page so that each family can choose the content level that is most appropriate for the members in the group.

After you finish learning and discussing, please raise one of the Hanukkah signs and a staff member will bring you the project for your family that is connected to the discussion for that topic! Once you finish the project, please let us know and you will receive the first pieces of a special Chanukah puzzle.

As you continue through the learning pages and projects, you will receive more puzzle pieces. Once you have completed all of the activities, try to put the pieces together to form a special picture. The back is adhesive so that you can stick it onto the cardstock when you finish!

The first family to complete all of the learning activities and put the picture together will receive a special prize!

Happy 7th Day Of Hanukkah!

*All the best,
Mashi & Alise*

HANUKKAH & TZEDAKAH

K-3RD SOURCES AND QUESTIONS



The Talmud tells us:

Rav Assi said: Tzedakah is as important as all of the other commandments combined.

The Hebrew word Tzedakah is usually translated as Charity, but the root of the Hebrew word, Tzedek (which is found in the word Tzedakah), means justice or righteousness. When we think of the word charity, we think we are just being nice and doing something that's not required. The mitzvah of tzedakah in Judaism teaches us that giving to others is not just doing something extra but is an act of justice. When we have the ability to give to others, it's the right thing to do to help those who are less fortunate.

Tzedakah does not always have to be giving money! We can give Tzedakah in other ways too. It is taught by Jewish Sages, that even someone who is poor and cannot give money, can still perform acts of charity. We all have something to give to others, it can be our time, our attention, or even a smile!

(adapted from chabad.org)

What was so special about the way the milkman's wife carried out her plan?

What are ways that we can give Tzedakah in our family?

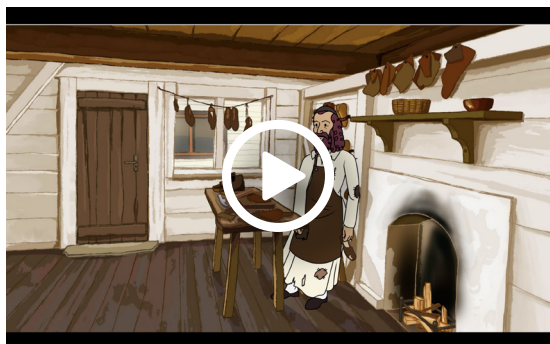


FAMILY PROJECT

- *Decorate a family Tzedakah box! Decide together which charity you will donate the money to. You can choose a different charity each month or year, or keep it for the same cause!*

HANUKKAH & TZEDAKAH

4TH-7TH SOURCES AND QUESTIONS



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RAMBAM'S EIGHT LEVELS OF CHARITY

The Rambam, also known as Maimonides, organized the giving of Tzedakah into eight levels in descending order.

8. When donations are given grudgingly.
7. When one gives less than he should, but does so cheerfully.
6. When one gives directly to the poor upon being asked.
5. When one gives directly to the poor without being asked.
4. Donations when the recipient is aware of the donor's identity, but the donor still doesn't know the specific identity of the recipient.
3. Donations when the donor is aware to whom the charity is being given, but the recipient is unaware of the source.
2. Giving assistance in such a way that the giver and recipient are unknown to each other. Communal funds, administered by responsible people are also in this category.
1. The highest form of charity is to help sustain a person before they become impoverished by offering a substantial gift in a dignified manner, or by extending a suitable loan, or by helping them find employment or establish themselves in business so as to make it unnecessary for them to become dependent on others.

Which of these 8 levels do you think is the easiest?

Which is the hardest?

Which level is similar to what the milkman's wife did? Why?

What are ways that we can give Tzedakah in our family?



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GRATITUDE

K-3RD SOURCES AND QUESTIONS



Why do we celebrate eight nights of Hanukkah? If there was enough oil for one night and lasted seven more, shouldn't we only celebrate the seven extra nights?

There are many different answers given by our Jewish sages to this famous question, some of them are:

- a. The first day commemorates the miraculous battle victories and the following seven the miracle of the oil.
- b. The menorah miraculously consumed only one-eighth of the oil each night
- c. The first day commemorates the fact that the pure oil was miraculously found at all.

One additional answer is that we are celebrating the fact that oil has the ability to ignite in the first place! We are focusing on the miracles of everyday life!

The Jews found enough oil to last for 1 day, but G-d miraculously made the oil last for 7 more days. So why do we celebrate 8 days of Chanukah, if only 7 days were miraculous? We celebrate all 8 days to teach us that even the 1st day was a miracle - it was the "miracle" of nature, that G-d makes oil burn in the 1st place.

What everyday miracles do you see in your life?



FAMILY PROJECT

- *Together with your family, create your own Gratitude Plaque. Take a moment to recognize all of the miracles in your life. Have each family member say one thing he/she is grateful for and write it down on the plaque. Decorate your plaque together and find a place to hang it up at home as a reminder! You can also leave space to add more things you are grateful for!*

GRATITUDE

4TH-7TH SOURCES AND QUESTIONS



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Life can feel very normal. We don't typically see angels or receive divine prophecy. It's not every day that we see miracles. Or is it? There are

approximately 100 billion neurons in our brains—each formed perfectly—that allow us to see, smell, feel, hear and shape our experiences. Did you know that the earth is about 93 million miles away from the sun, travels at 67,000 miles per hour, and maintains just the perfect distance for us to stay alive? The Hebrew word for miracle, Nes, has another meaning—banner. A miracle, like a banner, is an ever-present reminder of the truth. Without care and notice, however, it can easily blend into the background of existence, hidden in plain sight. Life is full of miracles and it's up to us to spot them.

1) Besides for the three reasons above, can you come up with your own reason?

2) What miracles do you see in your life that you might not always appreciate?



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JEWISH VALUES

K-3RD SOURCES AND QUESTIONS

During the time of the Hanukka story, King Antiochus made many rules that forbade the Jewish people from doing anything Jewish! They were not allowed to learn the stories and lessons of the Torah, they could not celebrate Shabbat and many more Jewish traditions!

In order for the Jewish children to continue learning and studying the Torah, they had to attend secret schools.

Students kept a toy similar to a dreidel in their pockets. If Greek soldiers raided these secret schools, children would quickly take out their spinning tops and some coins and explain that they were just playing games. The game of dreidel allowed a generation of Jewish children to continue to study Torah and live Jewish lives.

The dreidel teaches us the importance of sticking to your values and keeping traditions alive!

Each letter on the dreidel stands for a different Hebrew word which creates a message about the holiday.

נ - Nun - Neis (Miracle)

ג - Gimmel - Gadol (Big)

ה - Hey - Hayah (Happened)

ש - Shin - Sham (There)

*In Israel, the last letter is actually Pey (פ) for the word Poh, which means here.
A Big Miracle Happened There (or Here for Israel)

What are your favorite Jewish traditions or mitzvot?

How do you think the Jewish people felt when they were told that they couldn't continue keeping those tradition or mitzvot?



DREIDEL CHALLENGE!

- Create 3 different dreidels together out of the included materials

1) Clay 2) Lego 3) Food items!

JEWISH VALUES

4TH-7TH SOURCES AND QUESTIONS

One popular explanation for dreidels' connection to Hanukkah is they were used by Jewish children who defied the wicked King Antiochus's decrees against learning Torah.

In 175 BCE, King Antiochus Epiphanes took control of the area including present-day Syria, Lebanon and Israel and instituted harsh decrees against Jewish life. Under his rule, Jews were forbidden from keeping Shabbat and Jewish holidays, ordered to eat non-kosher food, expected to worship Greek idols, and were banned from teaching or studying the Torah.

Jewish teachers and parents persisted in running clandestine schools. At the time of Hanukkah, Jewish teaching was done orally and it was necessary for students and teachers to work together in person in secret schools. Getting caught would likely lead to death.

Students kept a toy similar to a dreidel in their pockets. If Greek soldiers raided these secret schools, children would quickly take out their spinning tops and some coins and explain that they were just playing games. The game of dreidel allowed a generation of Jewish children to continue to study Torah and live clandestine Jewish lives.

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What are your favorite Jewish traditions or mitzvot?

How do you think the Jewish people felt when they were told that they couldn't continue keeping those mitzvot?

What would you do/feel if someone told you that you couldn't do something that was part of your Jewish culture or traditions?



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CHESED

K-3RD SOURCES AND QUESTIONS



When we light the Menorah, we use a special helper candle, called the Shamash, to light all of the other candles. Something special about this candle is that while it shares its light with each new candle, it doesn't lose any of its own light. We can learn from the Shamash candle that when we help others, it doesn't take away anything from ourselves and only increases the light in the world.

What are some everyday good deeds that we can do for others?

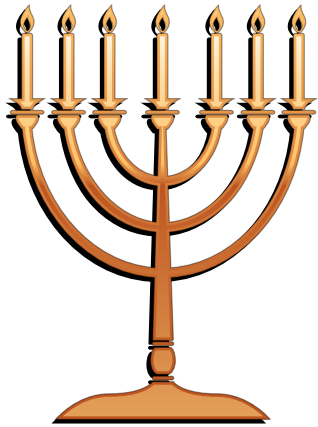


CRAFT KITS FOR CHILDREN IN HOSPITALS

- *Together with your family, create three craft kits for children who are in the hospital. You will be making "create your own puppet" kits with the materials provided! You can also write a letter to the child who will be receiving the kit!*

CHESED

4TH-7TH SOURCES AND QUESTIONS



The menorah has nine candles. Eight of those candles each represent one night of the holiday. However, there is one candle that must sit on a different level than the others. It is a helper candle, used to light all the other candles. It is called the shamash. The shamash is not a mitzvah candle like the others. Yet, it is important because it is the instrument that enables all the other candles to perform a mitzvah.

Each of us has the potential to be a shamash. We all have a responsibility to become helpers and make an impact on someone else's life. We don't have to be an expert, either. If we have something to give to others, then we have the ability to be like the Shamash!

When you pour water from one cup to another, the first cup of water contains less. But when you share a flame from one candle to another, the flame is not diminished at all. Fire is unique in that it doesn't lose anything when it gives to others.

There is a famous quote found in the book of Proverbs, chapter 6, verse 23:

"The Mitzvot are like a candle and the Torah is light" - Proverbs 6:23

Each Mitzvah we do adds more light to the world!

What can we do to increase the light in the world? What are some good deeds our family can do to help spread the light?



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JEWISH
FAMILY
EXPERIENCE



FAMILY HANUKKAH WORKSHOP

SPREAD THE LIGHT

