

# NJ NCSY Winter Regional 2015

פירסומי ניסא

Publicizing the Miracle of Hanukah



Question:

*It is Friday afternoon and Barry only has enough money to afford wine for Shabbat Kiddush or Hanukah candles which one should he buy?*

Notes for advisor:

*Shabbat Kiddush is Biblical commandment and Hanukah candles are Rabbinic.*

Gemara Shabbat 23b

If one can only afford either wine for Kiddush on Shabbat or Hanukah candles to light the menorah, they should buy Hanukah candles, because of the commandment of publicizing the miracle of Hanukah.

נר חנוכה וקידוש היום, נר חנוכה עדיף, משום פירסומי ניסא.



Notes for advisor:

*Ask NCSYers what is so special about פירסומי ניסא that it would be the reason that Barry would have to buy Hanukah candles instead of wine for Kiddush? Even though wine for Kiddush is Biblical commandment and Hanukah candles are Rabbinic commandment.*

Points to Ponder

*What is פירסומי ניסא?*

*How do we perform פירסומי ניסא?*

*What is so special about it?*

Gemara Shabbat 21b

The most ideal time to light Hanukah candles is from sunset until the last people come back from the market place.

מצוה משתשקע החמה עד שתכלה רגל מן השוק.



**Notes for advisors:**

*The Gemara is teaching us that the most ideal time to light Hanukah candles is when people are still outside to see the Hanukah candles lit. This is the mitzvah of פירסומי גיסא.*

**Points to Ponder**

*Why is it important to light when people are coming from the market place?*

*Who were the last people that came back from the market place?*

**Gemara Shabbat 21b**

Best time to light is until the last people come back from the market place. And how long is that? Rabbah bar bar Chana said in the name of Rabbi Yochanan until the Tarmodians have left the market place.

עד שתכלה רגל מן השוק ועד כמה אמר רבה בר בר חנה  
אמר רבי יוחנן עד דכליא ריגלא דתרמודאי



**Notes for advisors:**

*The Gemara is teaching us that the Tarmodians were the last people to leave the market place. Who were the Tarmodians? Hint: Rashi below answers.*

Points to Ponder

*Who were Tarmodians?*

*What is significant about them being part of the ideal time to light Chanuka candles?*

Rashi Gemara Shabbat 21b

The Tarmodians were those that collected and sold wood. They would wait until the last people were in the market place to try and sell them wood to make fires in their homes to stay warm.

רגלא דתרמודאי- שם אומה מלקטי עצים דקים, ומתעכבים בשוק עד שהולכים בני השוק לבתיהם משחיכה, ומבעירים בבתיהם אור, וכשצריכים לעצים, יוצאים וקונים מהם



Notes for advisors:

*We learn from this Rashi that the Tarmodians were not necessarily Jews. Therefore, we see that פירסומי ניסא applies to also non-Jews.*

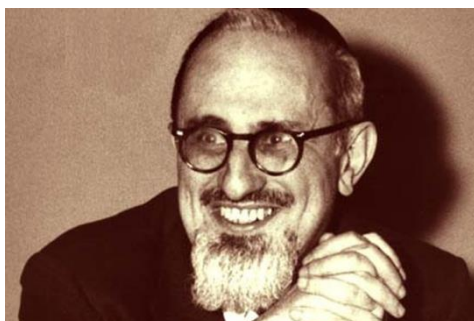
Points to Ponder

*What is significant about the Tarmodians?*

הררי קדם חלק ב' סימן קס- Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik

Rashi explains that Jews need to publicize the miracle of Hanukah to non-Jews as well. This is the significance of the Tarmodians being part of the ideal time frame of lighting Hanukah candles. Since the Greeks' intentions were to remove the study of the Torah and to not allow Jews to perform their commandments. Therefore, we need to publicize the miracle of Hanukah to non-Jews as well in order to show the world that G-d saved us and we would not succumb to others that are trying to prevent us from practicing our religion.

ביאר את דברי רש"י שיש פרסומי ניסא בפני נכרים דבחנוכה שנלחמו היוונים להשכיחם תורתך ולהעבירם מחוקי רצונך, בזה מה שאנו חייבים בפרסומי ניסא הוא מטעם קידוש ה', ועל כן החיוב הוא להראות לגוים שאין אנו נכנעים לרדיפת הדת ולא ניחת מפני כל, וה' מצילנו מידם



**Notes for advisors:**

*The Greeks tried to prevent us from keeping the Torah. Therefore, the miracle of Hanukkah is about counteracting that which the Greeks tried to take away from us. We do this through publicizing the miracle to everyone even to non- Jews.*

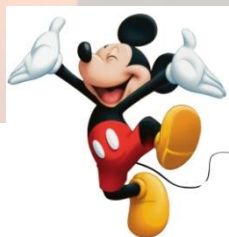
**Points to Ponder**

*What does Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik teach us about Hanukkah?*

**שפתי חיים חלק ב' חנוכה - Rabbi Chaim Friedlander**

The obligation of publicizing the miracle of Hanukkah first and foremost is on the person lighting the menorah themselves. By lighting the candles a person needs to contemplate and feel the greatness of the miracle of Hanukkah. Then they will accept upon themselves the yoke of Heaven wholeheartedly and with happiness.

חובת פרסום הנס היא בראש וראשונה לאדם עצמו, שבהדליקו הנרות יתבונן וירגיש את גודל הנס, ויקבל על עצמו עול מלכות שמים ברצון ובשמחה.



**Notes for advisors:**

*We see from Rabbi Chaim Friedlander precisely what publicizing the miracle is all about. It counteracts that which the Greeks tried to take away from us and it enable us to accept upon ourselves the greatness of Hashem and to serve him and perform his mitzvot with happiness.*