

Chanukah



Ritual Renewed

1. Sparking Hope

The Frame

The holiday of Chanukah marks the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees long ago. We celebrate this “festival of light” by lighting a *chanukiah*, a candelabra, each night for 8 nights. This symbolic act recalls many meanings, the root of which is the idea that sometimes one small source of courage and hope is all that is needed to turn the tides toward blessing.

The Tools

Candelabra~ On Chanukah we use a nine-branched menorah, a *chanukiah*, to bring in light. There are endless designs to fit every vision of light making, so get creative and find the *chanukiah* that speaks to you.

Sharing Light~ One of the only requirements on Chanukah, is that we increase light each night, and place it in windows and doorways so that our light shines out into the world for all to see.

Light-makers~ Whether with candles, an incendiary device, or a chance to practice survival skills, best to always be prepared.

The Intention

Nearly every culture and religion around the world shares the universal image of lifting light during the darkest days of the year. As we, in Jewish community, remember and celebrate our particular stories of courage and miracle, we also lift our eyes to see the many other sources of light from the world around us. We see how proudly shining our individual identities can also how we weave us together with the wider world.



2. Bless & Light

What To Do

Candles are added to the *chanukiyah* from right to left but are kindled from left to right. Each night the newest candle is lit first. On the Shabbat of Chanukah, we kindle the Chanukah lights first and then the Shabbat candles. We light the *shammash* (the helper candle) first, using it's spark to kindle the rest of the Chanukah lights. As we kindle these lights, we take time to think about how we can be a spark of light in the world and we give gratitude for all that we have with the words of our blessings.

What To Say

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר
שֶׁל חֲנוּכָּה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam asher
kid'shanu b'mitzvotav vitzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanuka*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who
commands us to kindle the lights of Chanukah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה
נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵן
הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech haolam she'asa
nisim la'avoteinu v'imoteinu ba'yamim ha'heim bazman
hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who
performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of
old at this season.

On the First Night Only, Add:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁחַחַיְנוּ
וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, who has kept us alive,
sustained us, and brought us to this season.