Chanukah

Chanukah is the holiday when we remember the Maccabees who fought for freedom.

We also remember the miracle of Chanukah. When enough oil for one day lasted eight days.

During Chanukah we say the blessings and light the candles in a specific order. Each candle and each blessing has a purpose.

On the first night of Chanukah we say three blessings and from the second night to the eighth night we say two. We also sing songs every night.

In this pamphlet we have included the blessings and songs to help you celebrate this festival of lights.
Did you know that there are at least three different ways to spell Chanukah!

**Filling the Chanukiah**
1. Place the *Shamash* in its holder.
2. On the first night place the candle for the first night in the far right holder.
3. On the second night repeat steps one and two and add a candle in the next holder toward the left of the first night’s candle.
4. On each new night, add one candle toward the left until all eight holders are filled.

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**Lighting the Candles**
1. Light the *Shamash*.
2. Say the blessings.
3. Using the *Shamash*, light the newest candle first.
4. When all candles are lit, place the Shamash back to its holder.
5. Sing songs or play the dreidle!
Chanukah Blessings

This blessing is said every night

Baruch Attah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, Asher Kidshanu B’mitzvotav V’tzivanu l’Hadlik Ner shel Chanukah.

Praised are You Eternal, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who made us holy through the mitzvot, and made it a mitzvah to kindle the Chanukah lights.

This blessing is said every night

Baruch Attah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, She-asah Nissim la-Avoteinu, Ba-yamim ha-Hem, ba-Z’man ha-zeh.

Praised are You Eternal, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who made miracles for our ancestors in their days at this very time of year.

This blessing is said only in the first night.

Baruch Attah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, She-he-he’yanu, v’Kiy’manu, v’Higianu la-Z’man ha-Zeh.

Praised are You Eternal, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who keeps us in life, sustains us, and helps us reach this time.
**Chanukah Songs**

**I Have A Little Dreidel**

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when my dreidel's tired
It drops and then I win!

(Chorus)
My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin!

**S’vivon/Dreidel, Spin, Spin, Spin**

*S’vivon, sov, sov, sov,*
*Chanukah hu chag tov,*
*Chanukah hu chag tov,*
*S’vivon, sov, sov, sov,*
*Chag simchah hu la-am*
*Neis ga-dol ha-yah sham!*
*Neis ga-dol ha-yah sham!*
*Chag simchah hu la-am.*
*S’vivon, turn, turn, turn,*

Dreidel, spin, spin, spin!
Chanukah is a good holiday;
Chanukah is a good holiday, Dreidel, spin, spin!
It's a happy holiday for the people;
A great miracle happened there;
A great miracle happened there,
It's a happy holiday for the people.

**Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah**

Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah
Come light the Menorah
Let's have a party
We'll all dance the Horah

Gather around the table
I’ll give you a treat
Sevivon to play with
And latkes to eat

And while we are playing
The candles are burning low
One for each night
They shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago

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Rock of Ages let our song
Praise your saving power;
You amid the raging foes,
Were our sheltering tower
Furious they assailed us,
But Your arm availed us,
And Your word broke their sword,
When our own strength failed us.

Who can retell the things that befell us?
Who can count them?
In every age a hero or sage
Came to our aid.

Hark!
In those days of yore in Israel’s ancient land.
Maccabeus led the faithful band.
But now all Israel must as one arise.
Redeem itself through deed and sacrifice.
What is a dreidle?

A dreidle is a top with four sides. On each side there is a Hebrew letter, *Nun*, *Gimmel*, *Hey* or *Shin*. Which means a great miracle happened there. Referring to the miracle of *Chanukah* in Israel.

On *Chanukah* we play the dreidle with nuts, candy or money.

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*A dreidle is a spinning top with four sides. In Hebrew we call the dreidle “sevivon.”*

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How to play dreidle:

Each person has a turn spinning the dreidle. To start each player must put one item (nuts, candy or money) in the center.

- When the dreidle land on ♠ *Nun*, the spinner gets nothing.
- When it lands on ♦ *Gimmel*, the spinner gets it all!
- When it lands on ♣ *Hey*, the spinner gets half.
- When it lands on ♣ *Shin*, the spinner must add to the pot.

Have fun!