

Hanukkah

December 10-18, 2020



Also known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is observed for eight days, beginning on the 25th day of Kislev. "Hanukkah" derives from the Hebrew for "dedication" or "consecration," referring to the Second Temple's rededication in Jerusalem during the Maccabean Revolt of the second century B.C.E. against Antiochus IV Epiphanes. The Talmud states that when the Temple was being rededicated, the Jews found only enough consecrated olive oil to light the Temple's Eternal Flame for one day. Miraculously, that oil burned for eight full days, allowing time to prepare new oil.

In celebration of Hanukkah, Jews light eight candles on the Hanukkiah for each night of the holiday. The shamash ("servant"), is usually located higher or lower on the Hanukkiah and is lit each night to adhere to the Talmudic injunction of using the Hanukkah lights to publicize the holiday and place the candles in the window. Traditions include preparation of latkes and sufganiyot (doughnuts), which are both fried with oil. Children play with dreidels marked with Hebrew letters for the acronym, "A great miracle happened there."

How to Light Hanukkah Candles

Thursday night, December 10 to Friday, December 18

Light the shamash candle first. Use it to light the other candles.

On the first evening of Hanukkah, Thursday, December 10, place one candle on the far right as you face the hanukkiah (the Hanukkah lamp). On the second night and on each succeeding night place the candle for that evening to the left of the candle which preceded it.

Light the newest candle first and then continue lighting the candles from left to right. On Friday evening, December 11, the Hanukkah candles are kindled before the Shabbat candles, and on Saturday night, December 12, the Hanukkah candles are kindled after Havdalah, which marks the conclusion of Shabbat.

Before lighting the candles, the following *berakhah* (blessing) is recited:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל הַחֲנֻכָּה.

Barukh attah adonai eloheinu melekh ha-olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel hanukkah.

Praised are You Adonai, our God, sovereign of the universe, Whose commandments add holiness to our lives and Who commanded us to kindle Hanukkah lights.

Begin to light the candles while reciting the second *berakhah*:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שְׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

Barukh attah adonai eloheinu melekh ha-olam she-asah nissim la-avoteinu bayamim hahem ba-zman hazeh.

Praised are You Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Who performed miracles for our ancestors long ago at this season.

On the first night of Hanukkah only, we recite *shehe-heyanu*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

Barukh attah adonai eloheinu melekh ha-olam sheheheyanu v'kiyemanu v'higi'anu la-zman ha-zeh.

Praised are You Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Who has given us life, sustained us, and allowed us to reach this time.

HOW TO PLAY DREIDEL

1. Each player gets an equal amount of gelt (money), candy or nuts.
2. Each player puts one piece in the pot.
3. The first player spins the dreidel and follows the instructions for whichever letter is on top once the dreidel stops spinning.



SHIN
Add 1 to
the Pot



HAY
Take
Half



GIMMEL
Take
All



NUN
Take
Nothing

4. After a player wins the pot start again from step 1.
5. Play until one player wins all the gelt (money), candy or nuts.

Have a Spin-off

Instead of waiting for everyone to have a turn with the dreidel and divvying up the goodies accordingly, why not conduct spin-offs?

It's fun and easy to grab a timer and see which family member has been perfecting those spinning skills since last Hanukkah. Each time someone out-spins another player, reward the record holder with chocolates and goodies.

How to read a Dreidel © BibleBeltBalabusta.com

Letter	Letter name	Hebrew word	Translation of Hebrew	Game action:	Game action: (Yiddish)
נ	Nun	Nes נס	miracle	do Nothing	(<i>nisht</i>)
ג	Gimmel	Gadol גדול	great	Get all	(<i>gesht</i>)
ה	Hey	Hayah היה	happened	take Half	(<i>halb</i>)
ש	Shin	Sham שם	there	Share (add token)	(<i>shtel</i>)