



In lighting our Chanukiah (the eight-branched menorah for Chanukah) and placing it proudly in our windows for all to see, we celebrate our religious freedom. We recall the courage of those who came before us. We remember the Israelites of the year 168 BC, who, when the Syrians took control of the land, were ordered to give up the Torah, profane the Sabbath and join in the desecration of their Temple.

We remember those Jews who chose to die rather than forsake their faith. At this holiday, we retell the story of the Maccabees. We recall that they were led by Judah, the bravest son, in a three-year battle against the Syrians. In the end, they prevailed - they gained their religious freedom and reclaimed their holiest place. As a symbol of its renewed sanctity, they rededicated the Temple.

Today, our lighting of the Chanukah candles symbolizes their conquest. With each candle we light we renew the sanctity of the holiday for ourselves, we rededicate ourselves to leading a Jewish life, and we express thanks for our religious freedom.



Lighting of the Candles

The Festival of Chanukah begins at sundown on Tuesday, December 12 with the lighting of the first candle. On each successive night we add one more candle to the Menorah. The candles are placed in the Menorah from right to left and are lighted from left to right.

Each new candle is special. Let us acknowledge the uniqueness of Chanukah by dedicating each one to an important theme inherent both in Chanukah and Judaism.

The following words can be used to preface the blessings. Members of your household might add their own hopes and prayers on these themes.

“Tonight as we celebrate the ____ day of Chanukah, we kindle these lights and rededicate ourselves to the concept of...”

- **First night** — *Herut* (freedom)
- **Second night** — *Mishpachah* (family)
- **Third night** — *Talmud Torah* (learning)
- **Fourth night** — *Tikvah* (hope)
- **Fifth night** — *Shalom* (peace)
- **Sixth night** — *Tzedakah* (deeds of righteousness)
- **Seventh night** — *Chevrutah* (partnership)
- **Eighth night** — *Emunah* (faith) from which we can find inspiration and guidance as our ancestors did.

Blessings Recite and/or sing each night.

Light the Shamash candle first, then use it to light the other candle(s).

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, a-she-er ki-de-sha-nu be-mits-vo-tav, ve-tsi-va-nu le-had-lik neir shel Cha-nu-kah.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who hallows us with Your Mitzvot and commands us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, sh-a-sa ni-sim la-a-vo-tei-nu ba-ya-min ha-heim baz-man hazeh.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old, at this season.

On the first night only:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהָיִינוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei nu me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-nu ve-ki-ye-manu ve-hi-gi-a-nu la-ze-man ha-zeh.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

***Ner Shel Tzedakah* Blessing:**

A Blessing to recite on the 6th night of Chanukah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹיָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְלִמְדֵינוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל צְדָקָה.

Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Haolam, Asher Kidshanu B'mitzvotav, V'lamdeinu L'Hadlik Ner Shel Tzedakah.

Blessed are You, Eternal, our God, who makes us holy through the performance of Mitzvot, and inspires us to light the Candle of Righteousness.

As we light this "*Ner Shel Tzedakah*" tonight, we pray that its light will shine into the dark corners of our world, bringing relief to those suffering from the indignity and pain that accompany poverty. May our act of giving inspire others to join with us in the fight against the scourge of hunger, homelessness, need and want. Together, let us raise our voices to cry out for justice, and may that clarion call burst through the night's silence and declare that change must come.