



Hanukkah Festival Details

Festival Aspects	Festival Details
Religion	Judaism
Title	Hanukkah
Description	<p>Hanukkah (also known as <i>Chanukah</i>) is the Jewish eight-day “festival of lights.” To commemorate the miracle of the burning of the Temple’s <i>menorah</i> for eight days with only a one day supply of oil, the sages instituted the festival of Hanukkah. Jewish families throughout the world light the Hanukkah candles each of the eight nights of the holiday, retell the stories of the miracle and rededicate themselves to God.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- SSSIO - The Significance of Hanukkah</p>
Spiritual Significance	<p>At this auspicious time the festival of Light, Hanukkah is celebrated. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the few over the many, the quality over the quantity and Light over darkness. Hanukkah is therefore a festival of hope and faith.</p> <p>It reminds us to remember that every individual has an innate holiness that can never be defeated by the negative forces.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- SSSIO, <i>Chanukah</i> Significance, Offering from Shalom Group of Australia</p>
Prayer	<p><i>Sch'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad Adonai Echad (2)</i> Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- SSSIO-USA – Multi-Faith Prayers</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- https://sathyasai.us/devotion/prayers/multi-faith</p> <p>Note: This is a universal prayer from Judaism. Special Hebrew blessings are chanted each night when the Hanukkah candles are lit.</p>
Purpose of Rituals	<p>Jewish families throughout the world light the Hanukkah candles each of the eight nights of the holiday, retell the stories of the miracle and rededicate themselves to God.</p> <p>In the second century BC, the Holy Land was ruled by the <i>Seleucids</i> (Syrian-Greeks), who tried to force the people of Israel to accept Greek culture and beliefs. Against all odds, a small band of faithful Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and rededicated it to the service of God.</p> <p>When they sought to light the Temple's <i>menorah</i> (the seven-branched candelabrum), they found only a single cruse of olive oil that had escaped contamination by the Greeks. Miraculously, the one-day supply burned for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- SSSIO - The Significance of Hanukkah</p>



	<p>Families celebrate the miracle by reciting special blessings and prayers, singing songs, and exchanging gifts for eight nights. Each night one candle is added to the <i>menorah</i> and lit, and this continues for eight nights. The candles are added to the menorah right to left. They are lit left to right such that the newest candle is lit first.</p> <p>During Hanukkah, foods include deep-fried jelly donuts called <i>sufganiyot</i> and potato pancakes called <i>latkes</i>. One is a sweet dish, and the other is a savory dish. Both dishes are fried to recognize the miracle of the long-lasting oil.</p>
Chant / Song	<p>Song: <i>Hine ma tov</i></p> <p><i>Hine ma tov</i> <i>Hine ma tov u'ma-nayim, Shevet ach-im gam ya-chad (low 2x)</i> <i>Hine ma tov, Shevet ach-im gam ya-chad (high)</i> <i>Hine ma tov, Shevet ach-im gam ya-chad (low)</i> Happy are they who in friendship willingly work together (low 2x) Happy are they who in peace united, work together, willingly work together (low)</p> <p><i>Hine ma tov u'ma-nayim, Shevet ach-im gam ya-chad (high 2x)</i> <i>Hine ma tov, hine ma tov lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai (2)</i> <i>Shalu Shalom Yerushalayim (4)</i> Pray for the Peace of Israel Pray for the Peace of Ishmael Pray for the Peace of all the world And all the world shall live in Peace <i>Shalom (6) Shalu Shalom Yerushalayim</i> <i>Shalom (6) Shalu Shalom Yerushalayim</i> <i>Hevenu shalom aleichem (3) {faster each time}</i> <i>Hevenu shalom, shalom shalom aleichem (3x, 3rd time end high)</i></p> <p>Meaning: How good and how pleasant it is for us all to be of one heart. How good it is, for us all to be of one heart. For there the Lord brings blessing life forevermore. How good it is and how pleasant for brethren to dwell together. How good it is for brethren to dwell together.</p> <p>- SSSIO Sai Rhythms – <i>Hine ma tov</i> - https://sairhythms.sathyasai.org/song/hine-ma-tov</p>
Story	<p><u>Hanukkah Story from USA</u></p> <p>By honoring and respecting traditions different from our own, we come closer to experiencing universal human love. A small story that occurred a while ago in the USA. Hanukkah coincides with Christmas. Sometimes children whose families do not celebrate Christmas feel left out during classroom activities leading up to Christmas vacation. Inspired by Sai Baba's example of love, a primary school teacher arranged a classroom presentation on Hanukkah so that one little girl, Shawna, from a Jewish family would feel included by all her classmates. Another teacher of the Jewish faith was invited to speak to the</p>



	<p>children on the original miracle of oil appearing at Hanukkah. She lit the menorah candles while singing the Hebrew prayers. The children sang songs and played a traditional Jewish game of spinning the dreidel. Shawna's mother helped the children make latkes in the classroom, a traditional holiday dish of potato pancakes with apple sauce or sour cream. All the children enjoyed Shawna's family's traditions which made her very happy. When it came time to go home that day, Shawna skipped out of the classroom with a beaming smile remembered by her teacher to this day.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- SSSIO - The Significance of Hanukkah</p>
Activity Suggestions	<p>Playing dreidel in class - Along with the menorah, a simple toy top known as a "dreidel" is one of the most-recognizable items associated with Hanukkah.</p> <p>The letters on the dreidels means "A Great Miracle Happened There (Israel)", referring to the miracle where a one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days.</p>