

How To – Light Chanukah Candles

You will need: Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah), 44 candles, Matches

Information: Chanukah, the festival of lights, is a Rabbinic celebration that begins on 25 Kislev (in November or December). Chanukah celebrates the miracle of the oil in the Temple in Jerusalem after the Maccabees' defeat of the Greek army as well as the Jew's freedom in the current time. Chanukah is not mentioned in the Hebrew Scripture but is related in the book of Maccabees, which Jews do not accept as scripture. The only religious observance related to the holiday is the lighting of candles. The candles are arranged in a chanukiah that holds nine candles: one for each night, plus a shamash (servant) at a different height.

Instructions:

Step 1: Place a candle in the shamash position and the number of candles required for each night (start on the farthest right - as you face the chanukiah)

Step 2: Light the shamash candle and recite the following blessings

Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments, and has commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light

Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who has wrought miracles for our forefathers, in those days at this season

Step 3: Recite the Shehecheyanu blessing (first night only)

Blessed are you, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season

Step 4: Light the candles using the shamash candle (light the left-most candle first)

Step 5: Recite the Hanerot Hallalu

These lights we kindle upon the miracles, the wonders, the salvations, and the battles which You performed for our forefathers in those days at this season, through Your holy priests. During all eight days of Chanukah these lights are sacred, and we are not permitted to make ordinary use of them, but to look at them, in order to express thanks and praise to Your great Name for Your miracles, Your wonders and Your salvation.

Step 6: Recite the Maoz Tzur

O mighty Rock of my salvation, to praise You is a delight. Restore my House of Prayer and there we will bring a thanksgiving offering. When You will have prepared the slaughter for the blaspheming foe, then I shall complete with a song of hymn the dedication of the Altar.

Troubles sated my soul, when with grief my strength was consumed. They had embittered my life with hardship, with the calf-like kingdom's bondage. But with His great power He brought forth the treasured ones. Pharaoh's army and all his offspring went down like a stone into the deep. To the abode of His holiness He brought me, but there too, I had no rest; and an oppressor came and exiled me. For I had served aliens, and had drunk benumbing wine. Scarcely had I departed my land when at Babylonia's demise Zerubabel came. At the end of seventy years I was saved.

To sever the towering cypress sought the Aggagite, son of Hammedatha, but it became a snare and a stumbling block to him and his arrogance was stilled. The head of the Benjaminite You lifted and the enemy, his name You blotted out. His numerous progeny - his possessions - on the gallows You hanged.

Greeks gathered against me then in Hasmonean days. They breached the walls of my towers and they defiled all the oils; and from the one remnant of the flasks a miracle was wrought for the roses. Men of insight - eight days established for song and jubilation.

Bare Your holy arm and hasten the End for salvation. Avenge the vengeance of Your servant's blood from the wicked nation. For the triumph is too long delayed for us, and there is no end of days of evil. Repel the Red One in the nethermost shadow and establish for us the seven shepherds.