



# Chanukah at Home

Like many Jewish holidays, some of the most important aspects of Chanukah happen in the home. It is a time of great joy and light, a time when we celebrate our identity as an **עַם קְדוֹשׁ**, a holy nation.

Chanukah, which means “dedication,” commemorates the victory of the Jews over their Assyrian oppressors in 165 BCE. The holiday celebrates our dedication to our heritage, our culture and our God. The Rabbis taught that after the military victory, when the Jews rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem, one day’s worth of oil miraculously lasted for eight full days. By lighting one candle each night, we too are afforded the opportunity to reflect on the light in our lives—the miracles great and small that we see around us each day.

## Lighting the Candles

Place the candles in the menorah from right to left, one for each day of the festival (i.e., on the third night, you should have three candles). After reciting the blessings below, light the candles from left to right.

<b>Ba-ruk h a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu Meh-lekh ha-o-lam, a-sheer ki-d’sha-nu b’mitz-vo-tav v’tzi-va-nu l’had-leek neir shel Chanukah.</b>	<b>בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.</b>
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We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe. You hallow us with Your Commandments and command us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

<p><b>Ba-ruk h a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu Meh-lekh ha-o-lam, sheh-a-sa nee-seem la'a-vo-tei-nu ba-ya-meem ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.</b></p>	<p>בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנוֹ הַזֶּה.</p>
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We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe. You showed wonders to our ancestors in days of old and at this season.

RECITED ON THE FIRST NIGHT ONLY

<p><b>Ba-ruk h a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu Meh-lekh ha-o-lam, she-heh-kheh-ya-nu v'kee-yeh-mah-nu v'hee-gee-ah-nu lah-z'mahn ha-zeh.</b></p>	<p>בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיָּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנוֹ הַזֶּה.</p>
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We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us and for enabling us to reach this season.

Maoz Tzur - Rock of Ages (Sung after lighting the candles)

<p><b>Ma-oaz tzur y'shu-ah-tee l'khah na-eh l'sha-bei-akh, Tee-kone beit t'fee-lah-tee v'shahm toe-dah n'zah-bei-akh, L'eit tah-kheen maht-bei-akh mee-tzahr hahm-nah-bei-akh, ahz ehg-more b'sheer meez-more kha-nu-kaht hah-meez-bei-akh.</b></p>	<p>מְעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נֶאֱחָה לְשַׁבַּח, תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח, לֵעֵת תִּכְיִן מִטְּבַח מִצָּר הַמְּנַבַּח, אֲז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מְזִמּוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּזִבַּח.</p>
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Rock of Ages, let our song  
Praise Thy saving power;  
Thou, amidst the raging foes,  
Wast our sheltering tower.  
Furious, they assailed us,  
But Thine arm availed us,  
And Thy word  
Broke their sword  
When our own strength failed us.

### Other Resources:

For more information on Chanukah including the rules for playing dreidel, an in-depth history of the holiday and recipes for latkes, see:  
<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Hanukkah.htm>

To play a game of virtual dreidel, go to:  
<http://www.jewfaq.org/dreidel/index.htm>

Use of oil was a concern for our ancestors and is a concern in today's day and age as well. See what you can do this Chanukah to help make a little oil go a lot farther:  
<http://www.coejl.org/index.php>