



**8 DAYS OF INSPIRATION**

**CHANUKAH @ OU**



### **8 Days of Inspiration for the Whole Family!**

**Enjoy this concise, meaningful daily digest of Halacha, Hashkafa and a Family Activity!**

#### ***Halacha HighLight***

The Gerald & Karin Feldhamer OU Kosher Halacha Yomis Program

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**Q.** How long must the Chanukah candles remain lit?

**A.** The Gemara (Shabbos 21b) states that the candles are lit at sundown and should remain burning until no one is left in the marketplace. Rambam (Hil. Chanukah 4:5) identifies that time to be a half hour after nightfall. What is the halacha nowadays, when people tend to be outside far longer than half an hour after nightfall? Must the candles remain lit for that entire time? Rav Yitzchok Zev Soloveitchik, the Brisker Rav, infers a response to this question from the language of the Rambam, who writes: “At what time are people no longer present in the marketplace? Half an hour or more.” The phrase “or more” implies that if people remain outdoors until later, the candles must burn for that entire period of time. (See, however Biur Halachah 672:1 s.v. Lo me’acharin who appears to understand the Rambam differently.) This is the opinion of the Ritva (Shabbos 21b) as well. However, Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (cited in the B’Yitzchok Yikarei commentary to Mishnah Berura) and Rav Elyashiv (Peninei Chanukah pp. 156-165) held that there is no obligation for the candles to remain lit beyond a half hour after nightfall, even if people are outdoors later at night. Nevertheless, it is preferable to light candles for the entire time people are outside to publicize the miracle. Along similar lines, Rav Chaim Kanievsky writes that the Chazon Ish would extinguish the candles after half an hour passed. The first night, however, he would leave them burning for longer (Ner Chanukah, p.15 note 17). The above dispute applies to one who lights outside, since the candles publicize the miracle to people passing by. However, when candles are lit indoors and the miracle is publicized primarily for the members of his household, all agree that the candles need burn for only a half hour after nightfall (Ner Chanukah, *ibid.*).

## **Hashkafa HighLight**

Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, Executive Vice President, Emeritus of the Orthodox Union  
“Chanukah: Just a Little Bit of Light” [Excerpt]

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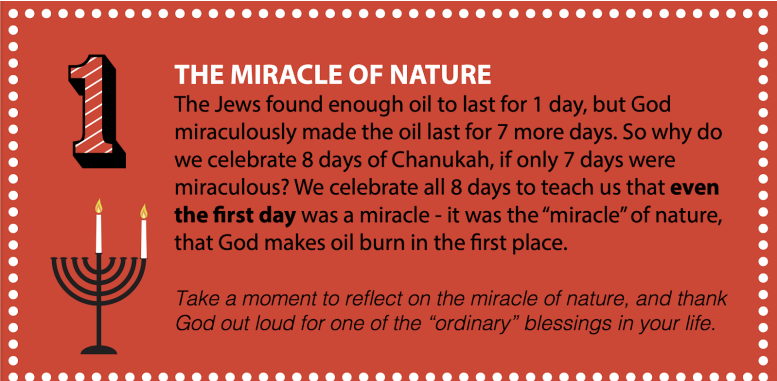
The Sefer HaTanya, the great work authored by the early Chassidic master and founder of the Chabad dynasty, Rav Schneur Zalman of Liadi states: “A little bit of light can dispel much of the darkness.” Despite its brevity and deceptive simplicity, it is a very profound saying that deserves careful study and contemplation. Note, for starters, that it speaks of “a little light.” One need not be discouraged when battling darkness, be it physical or spiritual darkness. Even a little light is immediately effective. This gives hope to all of us, even to the least of us. Hopefulness and a positive attitude are conveyed in this simple saying in a manner more powerful than any other saying I know. Note, too, that the saying is not naïve or unrealistic. The little light will not dispel all of the darkness. It will dispel much of it but not all of it. It will dispel it for a moment, hopefully for a long time, but not forever. There will always be a need for another light and for other kinds of light. But the way to combat darkness is not by complaining about it, by bemoaning it, or even by fighting it. It is by simply kindling a candle, by creating light. When faced with the darkness of ignorance, light the candle of knowledge. When confronting the darkness of hate, light the candle of love. When struggling against depression, light the candle of joy. The darkness of despair is dispelled by the light of hope, and even the terrible darkness of cynicism will dissipate in the light of noble ideals.

## **Meaningful Activities for the Whole Family: 8 Nights and 8 Lights**

Rachel Olson, NCSY

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It’s time to go around the table!  
What are some of the things that you appreciate? What has Hashem done for you recently? Use this first night of Chanukah to model appreciation!



**1** **THE MIRACLE OF NATURE**  
The Jews found enough oil to last for 1 day, but God miraculously made the oil last for 7 more days. So why do we celebrate 8 days of Chanukah, if only 7 days were miraculous? We celebrate all 8 days to teach us that **even the first day** was a miracle - it was the “miracle” of nature, that God makes oil burn in the first place.

*Take a moment to reflect on the miracle of nature, and thank God out loud for one of the “ordinary” blessings in your life.*