



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

Q. Pirsumei nisa (publicizing the miracle) is an important element of the mitzvah of lighting the Menorah. Is pirsumei nisa relevant only for the Jewish people who celebrate Chanukah, or is the Chanukah miracle universally significant, and pirsumei nisa relates to non-Jews as well?

A. Rav Moshe Feinstein (Igros Moshe OC IV 105:7) assumes pirsumei nisa applies only to Jews, and he notes that this is the opinion of Chemed Moshe and the Mishna Berura (Shaar Ha'Tziyon 672:17). Rav Elyashiv, however, deduces otherwise from the Gemara (Shabbos 21b). The Gemara states that the candles must burn until the tarmudai are no longer in the marketplace. Rashi (s.v. Rigla d'Tarmudai) explains that the tarmudai were gentile wood merchants, who sold firewood to customers in the marketplace until it was dark. It thus appears that one fulfills his obligation to publicize the miracle even if the only people who will see the lights are gentiles. This is the opinion of Rav Chaim Kanievsky as well (Piskei Shmuos Chanuka, p 91).

All agree that one fulfills the obligation of pirsumei nisa with Jews who are not observant and have no personal interest in the mitzvah of Chanukah (Shevus Yitzchak, Chanukah 4:6).

Hashkafa HighLight

Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier, The Shmuz

“Chanukah - God Fights Our Wars” [Excerpt]

“In honor of the miracle of the oil lasting eight days, Chazal inaugurated these days for Hallel and thanksgiving.” - Gemara Shabbos 21b

The Maharal states that this Gemara seems to contradict what we say in Al Ha'nisim where we proclaim thanks to Hashem for the miracle of delivering the Yivani armies into our hands. Yet the Gemara in Shabbos says that we celebrate Chanukah because of the miracle of the oil lasting eight days. The Maharal asks, “Which one is correct?” The Maharal answers that both reasons are true, and both are consistent with each other. The actual event for which we give thanksgiving and sing Hallel is the salvation of the Jewish people. We won a war against all odds. However, it wasn't clear that the victory was a miracle. To people living in those times, the military success seemed to be natural. It was attributed to Jewish resilience and bravery. It didn't appear that Hashem had delivered us from the hands of the Yivanim; rather, it appeared as “their might, and the strength of their arms.” It was only through the miracle of the oil that they came to understand the miracle of the battle. Once people saw that the oil lasted eight days - an overt miracle from Hashem - they then came to see that their success on the battlefield was from Hashem as well. The miracle of the oil revealed to them the miracle of the war.

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

Rachel Olson, NCSY

It's time to go around the table!
What middos, character traits, do those around you possess? Praise what we value - perfecting our soul and our character!

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FOCUS ON THE RIGHT VALUES

The Greeks were steeped in immorality. They aggrandized athletics and perfection of the human body above all else. While the Torah does encourage us to appreciate our material blessings, we view them through a different lens: We take care of our physical needs in order to enable us to reach our higher, ultimate goal of perfecting our soul and our character.



Demonstrate that you value spirituality over physicality by complimenting a friend on a good character trait they possess, or on a mitzvah they have done.

A project of the OU's Department of Synagogue and Community Services.

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