



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. If one lives alone, and after lighting Shabbos candles they realize they forgot to light Chanukah candles, is there anything they can do?

A. The Mishnah Berurah (679:1) writes that in this situation there is a difference between a man and woman. It is assumed that a man does not accept Shabbos upon himself when he lights Shabbos candles. So long as there is still time before shkias hachama (sunset), he may light Chanukah candles and recite the berachos. However, women customarily accept Shabbos when they light candles, unless they specifically make a condition to the contrary. As such, a woman cannot light Chanukah candles after lighting Shabbos candles. Can anything be done? If she can find a Jewish neighbor who has not yet accepted Shabbos, she may ask them to light Chanukah candles for her in her house. The neighbor should recite the first beracha (L'hadlik Ner) and she then recites the beracha of She'asa Nisim. If she can only find a non-Jew, it would not help. A non-Jew cannot light Chanukah candles on behalf of a Jew (see Rambam Hilchos Chanukah 4:9).

Hashkafa HighLight

Tefillah Tips - Chanukah Tips [Excerpt]

Rabbi Ephraim Epstein

As we celebrate Chanukah, let's invest a minute to understand the most well-known song of Chanukah - "Maoz Tzur- Rock of Ages". The content of Maoz Tzur conveys the long and bitter exile that the Jewish people have endured. It also beseeches Hashem to return us to His house, the Beit HaMikdash, where we will renew the Temple service once again, light the Menorah, and return G-d's splendor to the world. Each paragraph deals with a different Jewish experience in the Diaspora. After the introduction, "Raot Sava Nafshi" discusses our stay in Egypt for 210 years. "Dvir Kadsho" informs of the Babylonian exile where we stayed for 70 years until returning to Jerusalem. "Krot Komat" refers to our run-in with Achashverosh and Haman in Persia which left Haman and his children (rov Banav) hanging on a tree. "Yevanim Nikkbetzu" deals with the theme of Chanukah - namely our encounter against the Greeks which developed into both our military victory as well as the miracle of the oil. And finally "Chasof Zroa" calls upon Hashem to finally shlep us out of our current exile that has lasted over 2000 years and bring comfort to the people of Israel through the rebuilding of Jerusalem. No matter what predicament we find ourselves in, we have a "Tzur", a "Rock of Ages" to lean on. The message of Chanukah is clear: no matter what land we are in, no matter who our enemies are, the "Rock" is there.

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

Rachel Olson, NCSY

It's time to go around the table!
What can you do to share the beauty of Torah with others? What can you do to make a Kiddush Hashem? What can you do to help other Jews get still closer to Hashem?

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SPREAD THE LIGHT OF TORAH TO OTHERS

The Talmud states that we must place the Chanukah candles outside or in a place where people will see them, in order to publicize the miracle of Chanukah. Lighting the menorah in public reminds us that our Judaism should not just be kept to ourselves, but it should be shared with others.

Today, share a Torah insight with a friend or family member, or tell them about one of the blessings you enjoy in your life.

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

For more information, contact Rabbi Phil Karesh at kareshp@ou.org.