



**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.** I realized that I am almost out of olive oil and I don't have time to go shopping. Is it better to light one candle with olive oil and the remainder with wax, or it is better to use wax for all the candles?

**A.** The Mishnah Berurah (673:2) writes that all the candles must be made from the same material. If the first candle is oil, the second one must be oil as well. If oil is not available, all candles should be wax. If the candles are dissimilar, it will appear as though half the candles were lit by one person and the others by someone else. The Mitzvah of Mehadrin min Ha'Mehadrin (lighting the amount of candles that correspond to the day) will not have been fulfilled. However, each person in the family can light a different type of candle. One can light all wax, and one can light all oil. The Beir Heitev (673:1) cites a disagreement as to whether one may use olive oil for one candle and other types of oil for the rest. Some view even a change in oil as a perceptible difference that would give the appearance that there are multiple people lighting. However, other poskim do not differentiate between types of oil. They even advocate using olive oil for the first candle and using less expensive oils for the rest if it is too expensive to purchase olive for all the candles.

## **Hashkafa HighLight**

Chanukah: For Which Miracle? [Excerpt] | Rabbi Ari Enkin

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Although most assume that the miracle of Chanukah is the miracle of the oil, this actually might not be the case. Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach writes that the primary reason for lighting the Chanukah candles is to praise Hashem for the great miracles that led to the military victory. Therefore, when lighting the candles one should concentrate on thanking God for the military victory. Indeed, there is evidence to suggest that the primary miracle of Chanukah was the military victory and not the miracle of oil. "Al Hanissim" focuses primarily on the military victory. "Haneirot Halalu" does not mention anything about the miracle of the oil, either. "She'asa Nissim", according to some, refers to the military victory and not to the miracle of the oil. Additionally, although there were certainly two distinct miracles that were performed for the Jewish people, the Maharal asserts that the primary miracle of Chanukah was the military victory. "Al Hanissim" opens with an elaborate description of the military victory, and only a brief mention about the lighting of the menorah. It emerges, therefore, that the requirement to praise God on Chanukah is much more connected to the miracle of the military victory rather than the miracle of the oil. Indeed, we don't find any precedent where the rabbis instituted an obligation to praise God for a miracle that is already commemorated with its own Mitzvah (i.e. the lighting of the Menorah). Furthermore, although the lighting of the Menorah is certainly intended to recall the miracle of the oil, it might just be that doing so is actually intended to help us focus on praising God for the military victory.

## **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!  
How can each of you show Hashem that you are willing to work for our relationship with Him? What can you do - something small but meaningful - to serve Hashem better?

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### **DO MITZVOS WITH ENTHUSIASM**

God allowed the Greeks to make decrees against the Jews because the Jews were becoming negligent and lazy in their service of God. This punishment was "measure for measure" - since the Jews took the Holy Temple service for granted, God deprived them of the opportunity to serve. The sons of Matisyahu rectified this sin of laziness by fighting back against the Greeks and rededicating themselves to the Temple service. Seeing their renewed enthusiasm, God came to their aid.



*Do one good deed today with enthusiasm and a smile.*