



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. May I use leftover oil and wicks after Chanukah?

A. Oil and wicks that were designated for Chanukah candles may not be used for any other purpose. Remaining oil may be used for the next day of Chanukah, but once Chanukah has concluded, leftover oil and wicks must be burned so that people do not accidentally use them for other purposes (Shulchan Aruch 677:4). If it is impractical to burn the oil in a fire, Rav Elyashiv and Rav Chaim Kanievsky hold that one may pour the oil down a drain, but not on the ground where it might be degraded by people stepping on it. What makes oil and wicks exclusive for Chanukah use? Simply intending to use oil and wicks for the menorah does not create this status. Only oil and wicks that were actually lit and did not fully burn are considered “huktza limitzvoso”. The Mishna Berura (672:7 and 677:18) rules that if one had enough oil for an hour, and the candles were blown out after 30 minutes that we follow the Shulchan Aruch that it is not necessary to burn oil and wicks that remained after the mitzvah was fulfilled. Nonetheless, in deference to the Bach who felt it should still be burned, it is preferable to make a *tnai* (verbal specification) before lighting the candles that oil and wicks remaining after the mitzvah is fulfilled, are not designated for the mitzvah, and as such, need not be burned if left over.

Hashkafa HighLight

8 Short Thoughts for 8 Chanukah Nights [Excerpt] | Rabbi Lord Jonathon Sacks, z"l

There is a fascinating argument in the Talmud. Can you take one Chanukah light to light another? Usually, of course, we take an extra light - the shamash - and use it to light all the candles. But suppose we don't have one. Can we light the first candle and then use it to light the others? Two great sages of the third century, Rav and Shmuel, disagreed. Rav said no. Shmuel said yes. While we normally follow Rav, this is an exception to the rule, and we follow Shmuel. Why did Rav say you may not take one Chanukah candle to light the others? Because, says the Talmud, *ka mach-chish mitzvah*. You diminish the first candle. Inevitably, you spill some of the wax or the oil. In essence, Rav is saying don't do anything that would diminish the light of the first. But Shmuel disagrees, and the law follows Shmuel. Why? The best way of answering that is to think of two Jews: both religious, both committed, both living Jewish lives. One says, "I must not get involved with Jews who are less religious than me, because if I do, my own standards will fall. I'll keep less. My light will be diminished." That's the view of Rav. The other says, "When I use the flame of my faith to light a candle in someone else's life, my Jewishness is not diminished. It grows, because there is now more Jewish light in the world. When it comes to spiritual goods as opposed to material goods, the more I share, the more I have. If I share my knowledge, or faith, or love with others, I won't have less; I may even have more." That's the view of Shmuel, and that is how the law was eventually decided. So share your Judaism with others. Take the flame of your faith and help set other souls on fire.

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

Rachel Olson, NCSY

It's time to go around the table!
What Torah do you already learn?
Schedule a learning seder - even a short one! - to show your passion and desire to keep the flame alive!



8

KEEP TORAH LEARNING GOING STRONG

We play dreidel on Chanukah to commemorate how the Jewish children used to play dreidel when the Greek patrols walked by, to hide the fact that the Jewish children had been studying Torah. The Greeks and many other nations have tried to squelch our study of Torah for thousands of generations, but the Torah and the Jewish people keep going strong to this very day.

Set aside 5-10 minutes today to study Torah or share a Torah thought with friends or family.

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