

JOS Chanukah Newsletter



NIGRI
INTERNATIONAL
JEWISH ONLINE SCHOOL

Dear JOS Family,

Have you ever heard of one picture being drawn by 11 people in 3 different countries and 7 states? No. Neither did I.

Until two weeks ago that is, when Morah Chaya's level 7 class did this. Each student drew one section of the Menorah and then put it all together on the screen to create a bright Menorah. WOW!

The truth is that we are all painting a picture together; every single one of us. This world is a beautiful garden and Hashem gave us the opportunity to make it an even more beautiful place. We are like the artists drawing on the canvas, each doing our own unique part and fulfilling our own mission.

With each Mitzvah and act of kindness that we do, we are making the world even more beautiful. For you, For us, For all of mankind! Let's all do our part!

Happy Chanukah!

Mrs. Mushkie Lipsker



ABOUT THE COVER

"This is a Chanukah outdoor menorah lighting. I did this with watercolor and salt to make the cool background."

"I love being a big sister, and I have two older brothers. I love Chanukah, giving Tzedaka, Davening with my class, camping, gymnastics, art, and cheer class... and most of all, my BFFs: Orly and Toby."



Rozie Givre,
11 yrs old, level 5



#spreadthelight

**SO many students participated in the
#spreadthelight campaign!**

Thank you to everyone who let us know you joined
and sending the pictures. Don't forget to email
office@jewishonlineschool.com to get your reward
points.

Want to spread even more light?

Here are two special ways you can!



Huvie and Talia from
Chicago, giving out their Menorah



Porter from Florida is spreading
the light

ש ה NIGRI INTERNATIONAL JEWISH ONLINE SCHOOL ג נ

Hey JOS Students!

SO MANY OF YOU GAVE OUT THE MENORAH.
NOW WHAT?

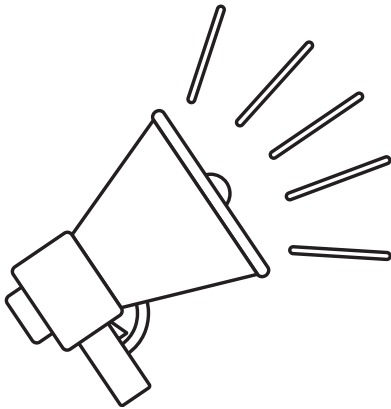
#SPREAD *more* LIGHT

1) Write a Refuah Shelaima card for Mr. Nigri.
Take on a Mitzvah to do in his merit.
Email it to mlipsker@jewishonlineschool.com
and then mail it to Jewish Online School, 816 Eastern Parkway,
Brooklyn, NY 11213

2) Write a Chanukah card for seniors in an assisted living
center. Email it to mlipsker@jewishonlineschool.com and then
mail it to "Carmella - Activities, 52 Vista Dr, Morganville, NJ
07751



Newsletter Name Contest



Hey JOS'ers!

We are looking for a creative name for our newsletter this year!
We are having a contest to see who can come up with a name!

- 1) Submit your suggestion(s) to
Mlipsker@jewishonlineschool.com.
- 2) A panel of five "judges" will vote on the winning name.
- 3) The one who submitted that name will earn 20 points.

We can't wait to hear all your creative ideas!



Learn the weekly Haftorah
with another JOS student!

Chavruta Learning Program

It's as simple as 1-2-3!

- 1) Sign up for the Chavruta Learning Program (for current Day School students, levels 4 and up, and Talmidot/Yeshiva groups)
- 2) We will assign you a partner. Connect with your weekly partner by phone or zoom, and learn the worksheet together.
- 3) Submit a form letting us know you learned it, and earn 10 reward points!

Mazal Tov Corner

Mazal Tov Rabbi Jacobs on the birth of your baby!

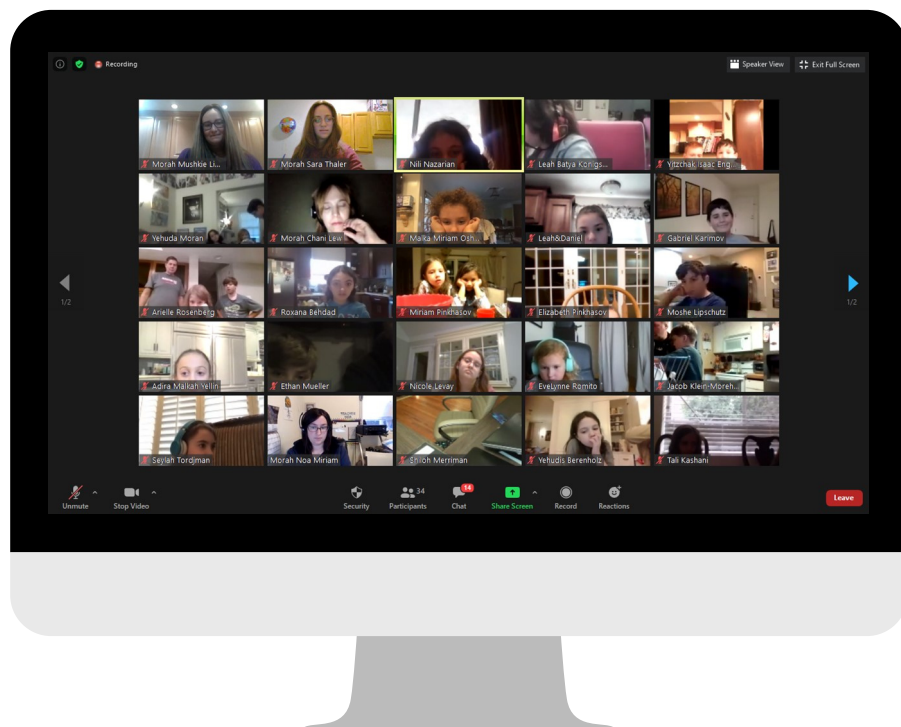
Mazal Tov Morah Toby on your wedding!

Mazal Tov Morah Peshy on your engagement!

Please email mlipsker@jewishonlineschool.com to share your Mazal Tavs!

We love to celebrate with our JOS Family!

Happy Challah-day of Chanukah!



The Hebrew school division completed their Shabbat unit and we all celebrated with a grand Challah bake! It was awesome! We also had a game on all the elements of Shabbat and watched a video of our teachers getting ready for Shabbat.



Mix:

2 cups water

3/4 cup sugar

2 Tablespoons yeast

Wait a few minutes for the yeast to poof.

Add:

2 eggs

1 Tablespoon salt

6 Tablespoons oil

2.5 lb. flour (or a little less)

Mix. Knead. Allow to rise for 2 hours. Shape.

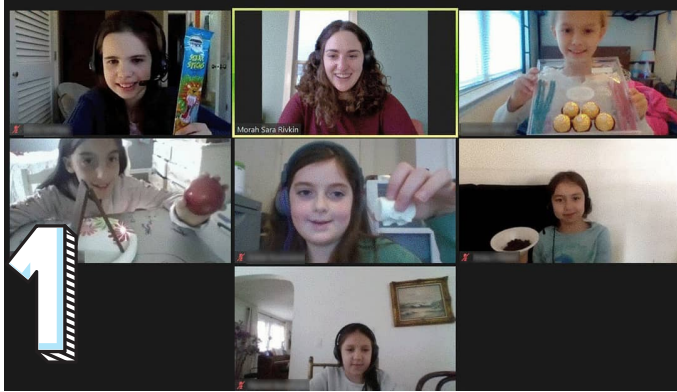
Bake at 350.

(smaller Challah rolls - around 25 minutes, large Challahs 45 minutes)



On the topic of Challah, check out this AMAZING Menorah Challah from the Konigsberg family in Florida.

Can you match the pictures to the caption?



Parsha Projects on Parshat Toldot _____
 Making sourdough bread while learning about Chametz _____
 Paint night for Kislev _____
 Dreidel contest _____
 Learning how Yitzchak became blind _____
 Celebrating a Chumash Siyum with treats _____

Light Penetrates Darkness



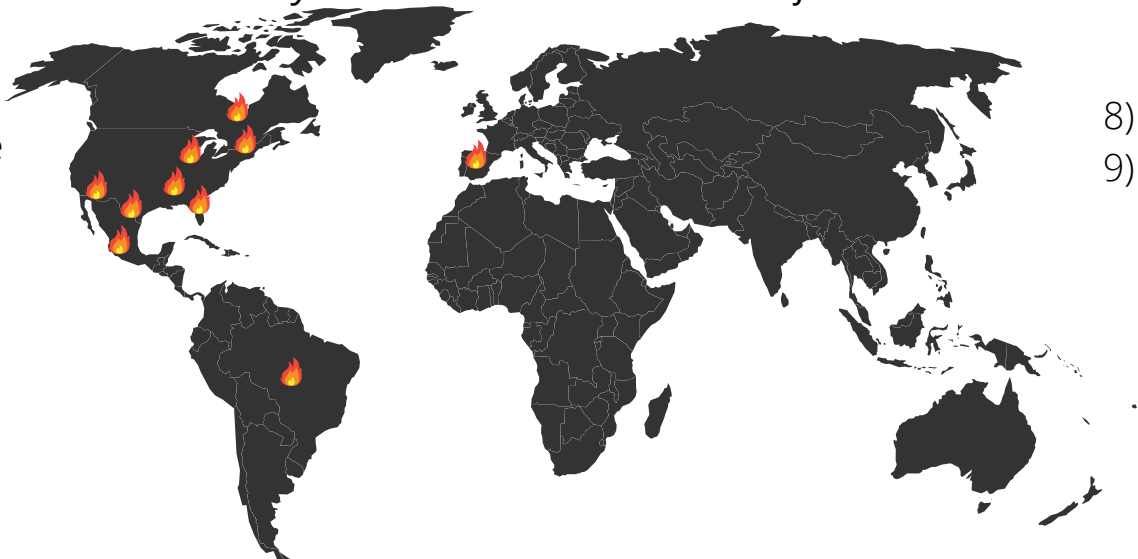
My name is Miriam Weisman. I live in Scottsdale, AZ. I have five sisters and two brothers. I like to read and bake. I am in JOS level 7.

Light shines through the darkness. Even just one little candle can make a whole dark room into light. This point is illustrated further with the following story.

There was once a king who needed a new advisor. So he set up a contest. Whoever could fill this whole room, he declared, will get to be my new advisor. One by one all the contestants got a turn to prove their worthiness to the king. One person got buckets of water and tried pouring more and more into the room. But when he opened the door, all the water came pouring out. Over and over more people kept trying but each one failed. Finally the last contestant came with nothing! He did not have any buckets or anything. He went to the room and motioned to the king to follow him in. the king went into the room and then he closed the door. The contestant took out a candle and he lit it. All at once, the room was full of light!

From the story we see how one little candle can take away a lot of darkness. This is the power of the Chanukah candles. They are each one little candle, each taking away some darkness together making the world bright! Share your light with the world! By just a small act of kindness, like visiting an elderly person or playing with a lonely person, brings a little bit more light into the word. And then we get the reward of Moshiach!

*These are just SOME of the places where students gave our Menorahs. We are SO proud!
Can you match each location to its flame?*



- 1) Tennessee
- 2) Florida
- 3) Chicago
- 4) Mexico
- 5) New York
- 6) California
- 7) Quebec

- 8) France
- 9) Texas

Doing it Because Hashem Said So

Hi! My name is Meitav Lefkovitz. I'm 14 years old and I live in Canada. I do have experience in making a magazine since I have my own magazine which I design on my own.

When the Greeks entered Eretz Yisrael they were not as bad as they seem to us. In fact, they were wise and had many interests.

But if the Greeks respected other people, why did they want to take away the most important laws that belonged to the Jewish people?

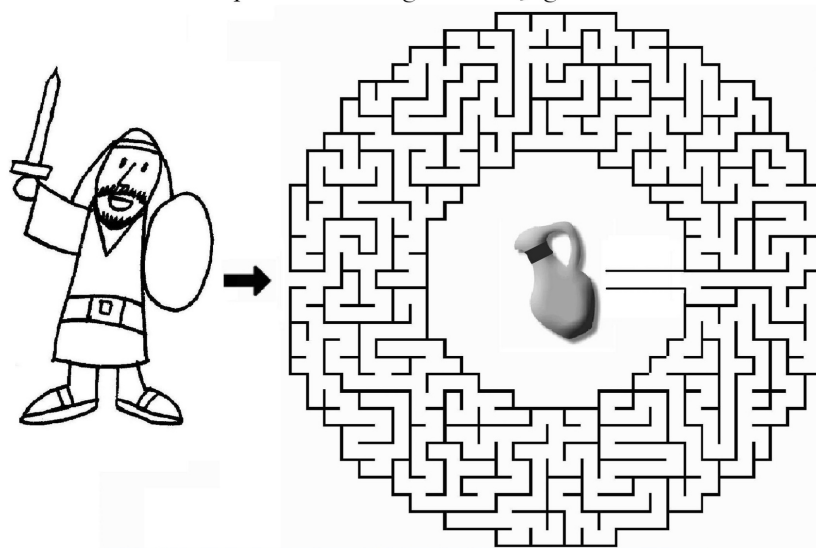
The king wanted to find more places in Israel to rule, so he sent a few of his soldiers to look around and bring a report back. They soon realized that everything the Jews did was because Hashem said so. After reporting back to the king they decided to give the Bais hamikdash a "Greek touch."

But the Jews got back and won over the greek army, fixed up the Bais Hamikdash and lit the Menorah!

A true Chanukka miracle!
Happy Chanukka!

CHANUKAH MAZE

Help the Maccabi get to the jug of oil!



Chanukah in 2020

My name is Raffaella Rascoff. I am almost 14 years old and in 8th grade. I live in Stamford, CT. Some of my hobbies include reading, writing and baking.

Happy Chanukah! I hope you are happy, healthy and sane!

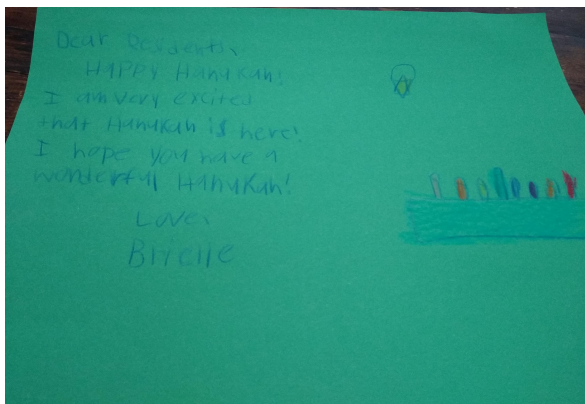
Obviously, because of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, most of our plans look different than normal/other years. But, (I believe that) we can still make the most of it and be positive/optimistic about the situation.

Here are three general ideas that include can help you/us incorporate joy into the holiday:

1) We can incorporate older traditions that are COVID-friendly, such as cooking nostalgic foods. Because/since no one is seeing many people this year, I think everyone should make new traditions to replace the ones that are unfortunately impossible to do this year. Some examples include lighting the candles and singing Chanukah songs with family and/or friends over Zoom.

2) We can help those in need because people are suffering more now than ever before. Anyone who has enough should try to donate money, food, clothes, toys, etc. to food banks, shelters, or meaningful charities.

3) We can also donate our time by volunteering online or in a COVID-safe environment. We can remember to light candles, eat or sing with our loved ones over Zoom or safely in person during Chanukah. It can make someone's day less lonely and anxiety-filled, especially if the person lives alone and would otherwise not see anyone significant during the holiday.



*Here is a sweet note from Brielle (level 2) which she wrote for the seniors in the assisted living center. (see details earlier)
Here is another great way to celebrate Chanukah - by spreading the joy!*

The Miracle of Chanukah

My name is Emunah Shulman, from Teaneck, New Jersey. I am a 9 year old. I'm the oldest in my family. I like to draw and paint and I have 2 sisters, and one brother that's my twin.

When the fire burns in the dark, it reminds us of our Neshamas and the miracle of light that happened on Chanuka, and how Hashem saved us all from the Greeks and Antiochos.

We learn that Hashem will always protect us no matter what.



B H O T B Y D E S C S W A L C U C
U O A R O R N T L K R J I O E H A
V E A L E R U Q E C H D N G G A V
Y V B I I N A E Z J A N V U A Y E
E O D J H M R H X R E R A B R S S
U E N G H G T C N C B W I E U I D
L Y U E J L N I T Y T G J M O T Y
K O M K Y K X T R F E E B A C A M
D U I W K C O V L B P S O V G M E
W G R Z D H H E C G B A I J C S N
Z L C L A T K E S F Z C K T N I O
L V W S Y X Q F V H Q O E W E E R
A P H H S A D K I M A H T E B I A
A E C A L E N D A R T B T C G W H
M L J T Z S W I G B O F B A V J Z
O Z I S P Z B U V C K Z W A M C O
D U A O R P J X N Y A A T J T G Z

Can you find
the Chanukah
words?

BET HAMIKDASH
BRAVE
CALENDAR
CAVES
CONNECT TO HASHEM
COURAGE
DOUGHNUTS
DREIDEL
GREEKS

LATKES
LAWS
MACABEE
MATISYAHU
MENORAH
MIRACLE
OIL
SHABBAT
TORAH

8 Days of Chanukah

By Efraim Greenberg, Washington, with Rabbi Jacobs

How many candles do we light...?

There's an argument in the Gemara how we light the candles:

Beis Shammai says- First night light 8, second night 7 etc., 8th night light 1.

Beis Hillel says- First night light 1 second night 2, last night light all 8.

What is the reasoning behind their argument??

Answer: To understand this I will first tell you a story... A man once came to Shammai & asked him to teach him the whole Torah on 1 foot. Shammai chased him away! He then went to Hillel & was told : "What you don't like don't do to your friend, all the rest is commentary, go learn". We see Shammai approach to overcoming darkness is with lots of light, therefore the first night you light all 8, then 7 etc. Hillel approach on the other hand was 1 step at a time, he therefore tells you to light 1 candle the 1st night and add accordingly.

8 days of Chanuka...

Question: Why is there 8 days if the miracle was only for 7?

Answer:

- 1) On night number 1 they divided the jug into 8 parts, so the miracle began right away. (According to one opinion)
- 2) There was an added candle to commemorate the miracle of finding the oil.

The placement of the menorah...

Some have the custom to place the Menorah on the left side of the doorpost, directly opposite the Mezuzah. This is done in order that the person should be surrounded by Mitzvos.

Question: But why? Isn't the right more important, as we find by most mitzvos (Lulav, Shmone esray, Netilas Yadaim)? We also find by Tefillin the main focus on the left hand. Why?

Answer: The message of Chanuka, and Tefillin as well, is to light up the darkness of the world. We therefore light on the left to show that even the weaker side is being involved in the Mitzvah.

והדליקו נרות בחצרות קדש...

And they lit candles in your holy courtyards...

Question: Why does it say they lit in courtyards? Didn't they light only 1 menorah inside the Beis Hamikdash?

Answer: Once the Yidden were victorious over the Greeks, they were so excited that they didn't only light the Menorah in the Beis Hamikdash rather they lit everywhere possible.



Here are three zoomed in pictures. Can you figure out what they are? (answers will be in next newsletter)



The Shamash Candle



Chaya Mushka Gopin, West Hartford, CT, Level 8 Girls
"I like to write a lot, especially poems."

Take a look at the menorah and look at the candles. Look at how they are lit. The Shamash takes the lead and lights the other eight candles. The Shamash is placed slightly higher than the other eight candles. We can learn much from the lighting and place of the menorah.

We can Learn from the Shamash to stand up and be someone others can be lit by.

We need to make ourselves into a person that others will want their flames to be lit by you. The menorah shows us how.

There is a story that teaches us what it means to be a leader. As a small child, Reb Zalman Aharon (the "Raza"), the older brother of Rebbe Sholom DovBer of Lubavitch (the "Rashab"), often complained that he was noticeably shorter than his younger brother. One day, he sneaked up behind his brother and pushed him lightly into a small ditch. As little Shalom DovBer stood up in surprise, his older brother seized the moment and pointed out that now he was taller.

Rabbi Shmuel of Lubavitch, the fourth Chabad Rebbe and the father of the two boys, observed the entire episode. The Rebbe asked for a chair, ordered Zalman Aharon to stand on it, and asked him, "Tell me, who's taller now?" Zalman Aharon answered excitedly that yet again he was taller.

"Aha!" said Rabbi Shmuel. "There you are! To be bigger than your friend, there is no need to pull him down. Simply elevate yourself!"

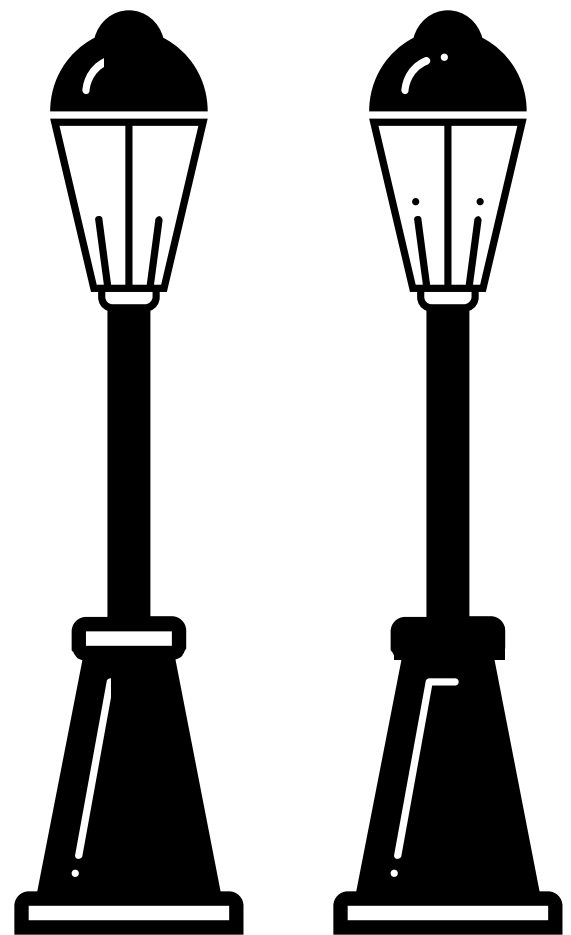
The Shamash Candle

From this we can learn, that just like the Raza was able to make himself into a bigger person physically, we can elevate ourselves as well. How? Not by extinguishing others flames. Rather we should elevate ourselves and make our flames stronger. We can also illuminate others' flames. Lighting other fires does not take away from your flame, rather it only grows stronger. We can make a difference, not by shutting others out but rather through bringing them in, and lighting their flames.

How can I tend to myself
And make myself strong
Even though those on high
Make me feel quite low

It's easy for me to get rid
Of the other flames on high
That block me from going up
And block me from reaching the sky

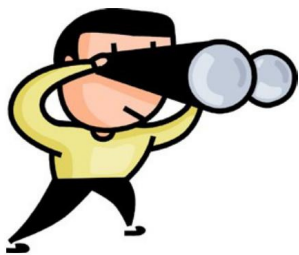
Yet I know it's better to not hurt others
Rather to raise myself up
By lighting other flames
My fire will grow on
Bigger than theirs
Bigger than ever before
Be a lamplighter to others
And watch the fire grow



*Can you spot the five
differences between these
two lamps?*

Chanukah Word Search

ב	א	ו	ט	ע	ל	ה	נ	ס	י	ם	ת
ר	ע	ל	ד	ד	ת	ת	ן	נ	י	ה	ר
י	ס	ס	מ	ל	ך	ת	ה	א	ו	ה	ש
ת	ך	כ	ר	ר	ה	נ	י	ג	ד	ן	ד
מ	ת	ת	י	ה	ו	ז	ו	פ	ו	ו	ו
י	ש	ו	א	י	ח	מ	ו	ה	ן	ו	ע
ל	ה	ת	ל	ו	ש	ו	י	ר	ד	מ	ש
ה	ח	י	ע	ח	מ	ל	ל	ה	נ	י	ש
ע	י	ד	ז	ר	ע	ש	מ	ש	ג	ה	ע
מ	נ	ו	ר	ה	ל	י	ג	נ	ע	י	ב
מ	ו	ה	ו	ן	נ	ח	ו	י	ו	נ	י
א	ב	י	ת	ה	מ	ק	ד	ש	ב	ת	כ
ו	ס	ש	ת	ה	ה	כ	ו	נ	ח	ל	כ



See if you can read the words on the right and connect them to Chanukah. Then, see if you can find them in the word search above! Good luck!

חֲנוּכָּה

נֵס

שֶׁמֶן זַיִת

שֶׁמֶשׁ

מְנוּרָה

הַנֵּרוֹת הֵלְלוּ

בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ

יְהוּדָה

מִתְתִּיָּהוּ

שַׁבָּת

Fun Chanukah Game!



Here's how you play! Every person should hold a wrapped gift or letter in their hand. One person should read this story. When the reader says "left" everyone passes the gift in their hand to the person on their left. When the reader says "right" everyone should pass the gift to the right. At the end, everyone ends up with a different gift of Happy Chanukah notecard. Have fun playing!

Antiochus felt it RIGHT for all his subjects to be strong and well learned in the philosophies and the Jew was not to be LEFT out. So he decided to "RIGHT" a decree that the Jews had no RIGHT to perform certain Mitzvos. And so the soldiers marched into Jerusalem. They went RIGHT to the Bais Hamikdosh and LEFT it broken and dirty. Yehudah Hamkabi LEFT his safe home in Modin and went RIGHT to work; getting an army together, crying RIGHT out "Mi lahashem aylai".

He sent his soldiers marching to Jerusalem. RIGHT, RIGHT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHTRIGHT, RIGHT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHTRIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT, RIGHT. As we all know with Hashem at his RIGHT hand, he LEFT Antiochus's army wounded as they LEFT Jerusalem in shame. And this time they marched RIGHT, RIGHT out of Jerusalem. They LEFT RIGHT out of Israel. And the Jews were LEFT in peace. The Jews went RIGHT to work in the Bais Hamikdosh. They couldn't believe what was LEFT of the beautiful Bais Hamikdosh.

When they set everything RIGHT again, they realized that when the Greeks LEFT there wasn't even a single pitcher of pure olive oil LEFT to be used. They couldn't make new oil RIGHT away since it took eight days to do it RIGHT. They searched RIGHT and LEFT, and RIGHT again until they found a tiny pitcher, just RIGHT for one night. The excitement spread through the city RIGHT away, that one pitcher of oil was LEFT and they would not be LEFT in the dark for even one more night.

The Kohen Gadol lit the candles and the Jews thanked Hashem for the pure jug of olive oil that the Greeks had miraculously LEFT behind. They LEFT that night in high spirits but were unsure about what to do tomorrow. The next morning they couldn't believe what greeted their eyes. The menorah stood RIGHT where they had LEFT it and the oil was LEFT in it. The Jews were exalted! Hashem had LEFT the light for the Jews for yet another night. And so the lights were LEFT burning for yet another night, and they were LEFT burning for a fourth night, and they were LEFT burning for a fifth and six night, and they were LEFT burning for another two nights, making it eight nights, until the new oil was just RIGHT.

And yes, we still have some of this light LEFT till today guiding us in our hard times. But wait! Is it RIGHT to light the candles in our menorahs from RIGHT to LEFT? Or from LEFT to RIGHT? When we setup the lights, we do it on the RIGHT side of the menorah, setting up from LEFT to RIGHT, but when we light, it's from the first one from the LEFT, the newest candle, continuing on to the RIGHT. Did you get that RIGHT?? Now open up what's LEFT in your hand!