

# CHANUKAH



**Chanukah is the Hebrew word for  
“dedication.”**

**Also known as the Festival of Lights,  
Chanukah is an eight-day Jewish  
holiday celebrating the rededication  
of the Temple in Jerusalem that  
happened in the second century BC  
Chanukah always begins on the 25th  
day of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar .**





# History

The story of Hanukkah is not in the Bible's Old Testament,  
but it is mentioned in the New Testament:

John 10:22: "And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication,  
and it was winter"

The story of Chanukah is told in the Books of Maccabees, which are part of the Apocrypha and not the Hebrew Bible. The story is about the Maccabees, a Jewish resistance movement that led a revolt against the Greek king Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 B.C.E. The Maccabees won the revolt and reclaimed the Temple in Jerusalem, which had been desecrated by the Greeks.

Chanukah recalls a dark time in the history of our people and our miraculous deliverance from that darkness. This eight-day holiday commemorates the Maccabees' victory over the armies of Antiochus Epiphanes when God preserved and protected His people through the heroic actions of this small band of Jewish fighters



# Traditions



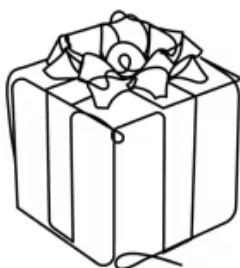
## Lighting the Menorah

On Chanukah, we light the menorah each night at sunset, and recite a blessing. On each successive night we light an additional candle, using a ninth candle, the shamash (the center candle, mounted above the others) to light each one.



## Playing Dreidel

Everyone is given gelt for chips. Each person takes turns spinning the dreidel; depending on which Hebrew letter of the four faces turns up, they either get nothing (nun), win all (gimel), win half the pot (hey), or put in one gelt (shin).



## Gift Giving & Celebrations

In America, it is customary to give gifts to children at Chanukah and to have celebrations. Public menorah lightings with latkes, gelt, and festive music are common. It is a wonderful time to celebrate God's faithfulness and the victory of light over darkness.



## Fried Foods

The tradition of eating fried latkes and donuts (sufganiyot) during Hanukkah symbolizes our remembrance of the oil miracle: After the Maccabees recaptured the Temple, they found that there was only enough oil to keep the temple lamp burning for one night, but it continued to burn for eight days!

# Chanukah for Believers in Yeshua

As believers in Messiah Yeshua, we remember the example of our Master:

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

(Mark 10:45 ESV)

Yeshua is the shamash, the servant candle from which all other candles of the chanukkiah are lit. Yeshua said that He is the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:15). At the same time, He told His followers, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It is our duty to shine the light of Yeshua to the world, just as the chanukkiah carries forth the light that originates in the shamash.

Chanukah is an annual memorial of the cleansing of the Temple and rededication of the altar. It is a reminder to us to cleanse our temples and rededicate our lives to following Yeshua.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1:9 ESV)



# Blessings

## First Blessing

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu  
b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who made us holy  
through your commandments and commanded us to kindle the  
Chanukah lights.

Bendito eres tú, Señor nuestro Dios, Gobernador del universo, que nos  
santificaste mediante tus mandamientos y nos ordenaste encender las  
velas de Janucá.

## Second Blessing

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim la'avoteinu  
bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.

Blessed are you, lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed  
wonderous deeds for our ancestors at this season.

Bendito seas, Señor nuestro Dios, Gobernador del universo, que realizaste  
maravillas para nuestros antepasados en esta época.

## Third Blessing

Baruch atah adonai elohenu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiyimanu,  
v'higiyahu lazman hazeh

Blessed are you, lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us life  
and sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.

Bendito seas, Señor nuestro Dios, Gobernador del universo, que nos has  
dado vida, nos has sostenido y nos has permitido llegar a esta estación.

# Sufganiyot

## Ingredients

1/2 cup whole wheat flour  
1 package (1/4 ounce) active dry yeast  
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves  
1-1/2 to 2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup water  
1/4 cup honey  
2 teaspoons canola or peanut oil  
1 large egg, room temperature  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Oil for deep-fat frying  
3/4 cup seedless raspberry preserves  
Confectioners' sugar



## Directions

In a large bowl, mix the whole wheat flour, yeast, cloves and 1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour. In a small saucepan, heat the water, honey and oil to 120°-130°. Add to dry ingredients; beat on medium speed for 2 minutes.

Add egg and vanilla; beat 2 minutes longer. Stir in enough remaining flour to form a soft dough (dough will be sticky).

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Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, 6-8 minutes.

Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease the top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.

Punch down dough. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; roll dough to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with a floured 2-in. biscuit cutter.

In an electric skillet or deep fryer, heat oil to 375°. Fry doughnuts, a few at a time, for 45 seconds on each side or until golden brown. Drain on paper towels.

Cut a small hole in the tip of a pastry bag or in a corner of a resealable bag; insert a small tip. Fill bag with preserves.

With a small knife, pierce a hole into the side of each doughnut; fill with preserves. Dust with confectioners' sugar. Serve warm.



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