

# HANUKKAH

## A Festival of Jewish Values

For many Jews the festival of lights has become the festival of gifts. How can we rediscover deeper meanings to this holiday? The eight nights of Hanukkah offer us the opportunity for deep reflection, conversation, dedication, and action.

A few ideas to consider...

- ✧ Focus on a different Jewish value each night as you light the candles
  1. Freedom
  2. Family
  3. Study of Torah
  4. Hope
  5. Charity
  6. Peace
  7. Peoplehood
  8. Faith
  
- ✧ Ask (and answer) a different question each night
  1. *Mitzvah*: What *mitzvot* and traditions are you committed to observing?
  2. *Emunah*: In what ways do you express your faith in G-d?
  3. *Tikkun Olam*: How do you contribute to making the world a better place?
  4. *Hiddur Mitzvah*: What do you do to make your observance of a mitzvah more beautiful, more ideal?
  5. *Hakarot Hatov*: What do you feel grateful for & how do you show your gratitude?
  6. *Am Yisrael Chai*: How do you show your determination to continue to live as a Jew?
  7. *G'vurah*: In what ways do you stand up for your beliefs even if most people disagree with you?
  8. *Kiddush HaShem*: In what ways do your actions bring honor to G-d?
  
- ✧ Identify a different action you can take to help protect the environment each night.
  
- ✧ Engage in a small social action activity each night (writing a letter to a soldier, donating food, clothing, or books, etc.).
  
- ✧ On the Sixth night of Hanukkah, participate in the URJ's *Ner Shel Tzedaka* – the Candle of Righteousness – by making a donation to the Nothing-but-Nets Program ([nothingbutnets.net](http://nothingbutnets.net)).