

# HANUKKAH

## A Festival of Jewish Values: Home Service for Each Night

This is a Service prepared in order to make the holiday of Hanukkah in our homes more meaningful. Each night celebrates a significant value of Judaism.

### **HANUKKAH - FIRST NIGHT: FREEDOM**

Kislev 25

#### Opening Prayer:

We kindle these Hanukkah lights in memory of the dedication and courage of the Maccabees. Believing that they should be free to worship God as their hearts and minds dictated, they willingly gave their lives for freedom. Now kindling these candles, we rededicate ourselves to work for the equal rights of all people and for the realization of a society of democracy and freedom.

Light Shamash Candle  
Recite the Hanukkah Blessings  
Light ONE Candle

#### Closing Prayer:

Our God, on this eve of Hanukkah, we rededicate ourselves to You. Let those lights shine forth brightly, reminding us that all are created equal in Your sight. Inspire us anew, that we may serve the cause of freedom as valiantly as did our ancestors before us. Blessed are You, O God, Who has implanted within us the love of freedom. – Amen.

~ ~ ~ ~

### **HANUKKAH – SECOND NIGHT: FAMILY**

Kislev 26

#### Opening Prayer:

Tonight, as we celebrate Hanukkah together, we are conscious of our precious gift of family. So often we take one another for granted, forgetting to express our love and devotion. Let us, now, as we kindle these festive lights, rededicate ourselves to sharing our interests and time with one another. Like the Maccabees of old, let us always face the tribulations and the joys of life united by our family bonds. Kindling these lights, we pray that through kindness and thoughtfulness, our love for one another will increase from strength to strength.

Light the Shamash Candle  
Recite the Hanukkah Blessings  
Light TWO Candles

#### Closing Prayer:

Eternal our God, we thank You for preserving us in health and joy. We pray that all families everywhere may experience the love for one another which we share. Blessed are You, our God, Who turns the hearts of the children to their parents and the devotion of the parents to their children. – Amen.

~ ~ ~ ~

## **HANUKKAH – THIRD NIGHT: STUDY OF TORAH**

Kislev 27

### Opening Prayer:

On this third night of Hanukkah, we rededicate ourselves to the study of our tradition. As the Maccabees courageously fought to preserve our faith, we too, are duty bound to sustain our heritage by deepening our understanding of it through study. By increasing our knowledge of Judaism, we become more sensitive to its abiding values, more aware of our responsibility to realize these values in our society. Study opens our minds and fortifies us against tyranny. Learning secures our freedom. Let us, then, as we kindle these candles, rededicate ourselves to the study of our tradition.

Light the Shamash Candle  
Recite the Hanukkah Blessings  
Light THREE Candles

### Closing Prayer:

O God, may we ever recognize our obligation to learn. Increase in us the desire to pursue knowledge as an instrument which strengthens our way of life. Humbly, we realize how little we know of our world and our faith. Let these Hanukkah lights serve to remind us of our need to study and to increase our understanding. May they inspire us to enlighten and use our minds for the benefit of all humanity. -Amen.

~ ~ ~ ~

## **HANUKKAH – FOURTH NIGHT: HOPE**

Kislev 28

### Opening Prayer:

Our ancestors have taught us that in hope, one's future is illumined and made creative. Ours are the times when many live in fear and great despair. Like the Maccabees, we need to build our lives on hope. Hope that ultimately truth will triumph over superstition, and confidence that trust and understanding will finally depose superstition and tyranny. Now as we kindle these Hanukkah lights, may our eyes be directed to the loftiest visions of our faith.

Light the Shamash Candle  
Recite the Hanukkah Blessings  
Light FOUR Candles

### Closing Prayer:

Eternal our God, Source of humanity's upward striving, inspire us with hope to face courageously the trials and challenges which confront us. Founded upon truth and honesty, may our efforts bring the fulfillment of our highest aspirations. We sincerely hope for the day when all will be free, when war will no longer delay the dawn of justice and peace. Blessed are You our God, Who encourages our desires for a better tomorrow and our steadfast hope in the future. – Amen.

~ ~ ~ ~

## **HANUKKAH – FIFTH NIGHT: CHARITY**

Kislev 29

### Opening Prayer:

Our tradition tells us that during the Maccabean War for Freedom, all Jews, both children and adults, contributed charity toward the cause of defeating the oppressor. There are many forms of oppression still existent in our world today. There are people afflicted by sickness, hunger, ignorance, and prejudice. Tonight, we, like our ancestors, put aside gifts of charity in order that we too may help to bring an end to oppression. We pray that the humble gifts we offer will provide food for the hungry, medicine for the sick, knowledge for the ignorant, and equal opportunity for those afflicted by prejudice. (Each member of the family makes a contribution to be given to a charity.) Now as we kindle our Hanukkah lights, let us rededicate ourselves to the ideal of Tzedakah, of charity, found in our Jewish tradition.

Light the Shamash Candle  
Recite the Hanukkah Blessings  
Light FIVE Candles

### Closing Prayer:

Our God, we have been taught that the more charity there is, the more secure does peace become. May our Hanukkah candles symbolize for us the light of happiness and hope which our charity will bring to those oppressed by need. Aid us, O God, to be compassionate and generous toward our people. Blessed are You, O God, Who inspires within us the will to do charity, and a concern for the welfare and dignity of all people. – Amen.

~ ~ ~ ~

## **HANUKKAH – SIXTH NIGHT: PEACE**

Kislev 30

### Opening Prayer:

The candles of Hanukkah remind us of our chosen mission as Jews. Like the Maccabees, we seek to rededicate ourselves to the service of God. Today, one of the foremost tasks is to secure peace in our troubled world. When we end disagreements through mutual understanding, when we seek to mend hurt and wounded feelings, we are doing our part in making peace a living ideal. Let us, as we kindle our Hanukkah candles, rededicate ourselves with renewed strength to the task of securing peace.

Light the Shamash Candle  
Recite the Hanukkah Blessings  
Light SIX Candles

### Closing Prayer:

O God, show the pathway of peace to all people. Teach us that only acts which flow out of goodwill can bring enduring peace. Help us to realize that hate and prejudice bring nothing but strife and chaos into the world. Let all recognize that only through cooperation and honest negotiation can the blessings of peace be made secure. Plant the love of peace in every heart, and may the bonds of friendship among all the inhabitants of earth be strengthened. Praised are You, O God, Giver of peace. –Amen.

~ ~ ~ ~

## **HANUKKAH – SEVENTH NIGHT: PEOPLEHOOD**

Tevet 1

### Opening Prayer:

Peoplehood is founded upon a total respect for the liberty and freedom of all human beings. The Maccabees of old sought to protect themselves when their rights were violated. Our Hanukkah lights serve as a reminder that we are secure only when we honor the precious liberty and property of all people. As we kindle these lights, let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of peoplehood which alone can bring dignity to all.

Light the Shamash Candle  
Recite the Hanukkah Blessings  
Light SEVEN Candles

### Closing Prayer:

Our God, teach us to be sensitive to the feelings of our friends and neighbors. Help us to understand their failings, and grant us the humility to praise and applaud their achievements. May our Hanukkah candles remind us that all people are created equal in Your sight. Blessed are You, Who would have every human being cherish the unity of all. –Amen.

~ ~ ~ ~

## **HANUKKAH – EIGHTH NIGHT: FAITH**

Tevet 2

### Opening Prayer:

Tonight, we kindle all the candles of our Hanukkah Menorah. Throughout the centuries, the Menorah has been a symbol of our faith, Judaism. Like the Maccabees, when they celebrated this festive holiday, we rededicate ourselves to the living of a more meaningful Jewish life. We pray that throughout this coming year, we may fulfill the ideals of freedom, charity, family, study, hope, peace, and peoplehood, all of which are symbolized by the candles of our Menorah.

Light the Shamash Candle  
Recite the Hanukkah Blessings  
Light EIGHT Candles

### Closing Prayer:

Our God, may we be sustained and strengthened by our faith. Through our study of it, and through our devotion to its ideals, we pray that we shall speed the day when all people will recognize that they are brothers and sisters. Praised be Thou, O God, for the opportunity of celebrating our holiday of Hanukkah. –Amen.

~ ~ ~ ~