

# **8 Days of Messianic Hanukkah Devotions**

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*Preface—*

*While not a Biblically commanded holiday, Hanukkah is an amazing tradition that teaches important historical events, that provides an amazing opportunity to get to know the characteristics of God and see them in action, and to honor the Lord through the study, prayer, and praise traditionally involved in this 8-day holiday.*

*Each family is able to celebrate in the way that they best see fit, but this is what I have developed over the last few years for my family to use. My children look forward to Hanukkah, and I look forward to the rich meaning that leaves me in tears for 8 nights. It is an honor to understand and teach my children every year about the vital truths of Hanukkah. **It is important that you go through the links included in each day's activities to print and prepare for what you need ahead of time.** Nothing is too involved, but you do need to prepare!*

Some tips –

- Menorah lighting instructions: (candles go in from Right to Left, like reading Hebrew, and are lit from Left to Right (most recent candles is lit first); the Shamash (candle that lights the others) goes in the center. Full instructions: [http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/article\\_cdo/aid/105045/jewish/How-to-Light.htm](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/article_cdo/aid/105045/jewish/How-to-Light.htm)
- Download the Hanukkah Prayers and Readings also available at <http://lifemoresimplyblog.wordpress.com>.
- Read through everything, visit the links, print, and prepare ahead of time!
- Watch YouTube videos and check out other resources to help you design the best Hanukkah traditions for *your* family.

Shalom,  
Rachel

1. **Theme: God protects and provides for those who persevere in honoring Him and who fight for justice**
  - a. Hanukkah History Story in brief:  
[http://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/811843/jewish/Story-of-Chanukah-in-Brief.htm](http://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/811843/jewish/Story-of-Chanukah-in-Brief.htm) or a Video telling:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hV3nXzZMEs>
  - b. Questions (discuss after reading or watching the history)
    - i. Why is Hanukkah also referred to as “The Feast of Dedication”?
    - ii. Why is Hanukkah also referred to as “The Festival of Lights”?
    - iii. What amendment protects our religious freedom in the US?
    - iv. What other historical events remind us of the Maccabean revolt and Hanukah story?
  - c. Craft: color, cut, and replay the story using these puppets and props: <http://dolldiaries.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Hanukkah-Menorah.pdf>  
<http://www.appsameach.com/0/portfolio-item/hanukkah-finger-puppets/>

## 2. Theme: why we light the hanukkah (menorah)

- a. Menorah history: Numbers 7:1-8:4 (where was the menorah located in the temple?)
- b. Question:
  - i. What stands out about the sacrifices that each tribe brought?
  - ii. Do we need to sacrifice today to enter Heaven?
  - iii. What sacrifices can we make to show honor to God?
  - iv. What are some ways we can show our honor to God by choosing our best for Him, like the expensive and nice items that were brought to the temple?
  - v. Why the difference in how many candles are on the temple menorah vs. the Hanukkah menorah?
- c. Menorah Craft: [www.funfamilycrafts.com/craft-stick-menorah-and-dreidel/](http://www.funfamilycrafts.com/craft-stick-menorah-and-dreidel/)

### 3. Theme: Jehovah Tsidkenu – the Lord of Justice and Righteousness

- a. The title “Jehovah Tsidkenu” is used twice in Scripture. Be sure to read the surrounding text to understand the context. “Jehovah Tsidkenu” is translated “Lord of Righteousness” or “Lord of Justice”.
  - i. *In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.* (Jeremiah 23:6 NKJV)
  - ii. *In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’* (Jeremiah 33:16, NIV)
- b. Reverend C. H. Spurgeon delivered a sermon entitled “Jehovah Tsidkenu: The Lord of Righteousness” which is worth taking the time as an adult to read through. It explains how the term is used in Scripture, and how it is fulfilled. You can read a copy of this sermon here: <http://www.spurgeon.org/sermons/0395.php>
- c. Questions:
  - i. What is righteousness? What is justice? And how do the two relate to each other? (Righteousness is fulfilling the law, while justice is enforcing the law)
  - ii. How does Yeshua (Jesus) fulfill the prophecy that He will be our Jehovah Tsidkenu?
  - iii. Who was fighting for righteousness and justice in the Hanukkah story?
  - iv. What groups are suffering great religious persecution today?
  - v. What can we do to fight for their justice?
- d. Craft: Make a Tzedakah Box and choose a justice fighting charity to donate the collected money to: <http://punktorah.org/recycled-tzedakah-box/>

**4. Theme: even a single candle defeats the darkness**

- a. Jesus' conception (during Hanukkah) and birth (during Feast of Tabernacles):  
<http://heartofwisdom.com/biblicaltholidays/2014/07/28/birth-of-christ-feast-of-tabernacles/>
- i. Questions:
  - 1. What is the significance of Jesus being conceived during Hanukkah and being born during the Feast of Tabernacles?
  - 2. How is Jesus' death a way that God demonstrates that he is the God of Justice and Righteousness (Jesus paid the penalty of the justice needed for our sins—because of that, we are made righteous)?
  - 3. How can we be a "light to the world"?
- b. Craft: Create Hanukkah greeting cards to share Hanukkah and Jesus with others.  
[http://www.education.com/files/160401\\_160500/160437/color-festive-hanukkah-card.pdf](http://www.education.com/files/160401_160500/160437/color-festive-hanukkah-card.pdf)
- c. If you have little ones, now would be a great time to sing "This Little Light of Mine"!

## 5. Theme: God wants us to remember His history

- a. Dreidel explanation and history:
  - i. <http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-origin-of-the-dreidel/>
  - ii. <http://ohr.edu/1309>
- b. Questions:
  - i. Why should we remember history?
  - ii. Is it easy to remember painful things that have happened?
  - iii. Why is it important to remember the painful things?
- c. A dreidel is a four-sided top. The Hebrew letters nun, gimel, hay, and shin are inscribed on the four sides. They are the first letters of the words "Nes gadol hayah sham" which means "A great miracle happened there."
- d. How does the Dreidel reminds us of the history of Hanukkah?
- e. Craft: Dreidel template and instructions  
<http://www.education.com/worksheet/article/printable-dreidel/>

## 6. Theme: sanctifying our Temple

- a. Jesus' teachings around Hanukkah:  
<http://www.Idolphin.org/hanukkah.html>
- b. Questions:
  - i. How did Jesus become our sacrifice?
  - ii. What did he mean that He would rebuild the temple in 3 days?
  - iii. Later, in 1 Corinthians 19-20, when the Bible says our bodies are a "temple of God," what does that mean?
  - iv. Hanukkah commemorates restoring the temple that was defiled. How does our temple become defiled? (sin) How can we be cleansed and sanctified? (through the blood of the Lamb, the confession, repentance, and forgiveness of sins)
- c. Lesson and activities: <https://www.scribd.com/doc/36306468/My-Body-is-a-Temple-I-Will-Keep-My-Body-and-Mind-Sacred-and-Pure-FHE-Lesson>

## 7. Theme: there is hope for our future

- a. There are so many verses about, and to give us, hope when our situations are difficult! Download this printable to give you quick access to verses on hope: <http://mercyisnew.com/wp-content/uploads/Praying-Psalms-When-You-Need-Hope-PDF-.pdf> . You can access the author of this PDF's entire 12-day devotional and other links on Hope here: <http://mercyisnew.com/2015/03/25/30-verses-to-pray-when-you-need-hope/>
- b. Questions:
  - i. What has God promised in the Hallel (the Scripture readings of Hanukkah) that gives us hope?
  - ii. How does Jesus' sacrifice give us hope?
  - iii. How is hope different from faith? (read Hebrews 11:1)
  - iv. How was having hope and faith important during the Maccabean revolt?
  - v. What would have happened if we had lost hope during our re-taking of the Temple?
- c. Craft: Write your own story of something difficult you went through, but that you came out of, or write your own story of something you're currently facing and how you want it to end.
  - i. Writing paper: <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/dreidel-writing-paper>
  - ii. An alternative to this would be to create an art project depicting your feelings of what you have or are going through, but the hope that you have for the future.
  - iii. Another alternative is to make a piece of artwork with a quote or Bible verse about hope that you can display in your home.



- 8. Theme: what others have meant for evil, God has meant for good**
- a. *You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result--the survival of many people.* (Genesis 50:20, HCSB)
  - b. "A Mindset for Enduring Trials: Genesis 50:20" – the best article I've seen on this topic. Read it, adjust it for the maturity levels of your children, and reteach these truths to them. They will need it at some point in their lifetime. Access the print version and the live recorded version of this sermon here:  
<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-85-mindset-enduring-trials-genesis-5020>
  - c. Questions:
    - i. How was what someone meant for evil, turned into something that brought about the survival of many people through Hanukkah?
    - ii. What other stories in History can we see this also having happened?
  - d. After you discuss the previous verse and topic in (b), read this short, true story, and show the corresponding photograph:  
<http://rarehistoricalphotos.com/menorah-defies-nazi-flag/> Discuss this story and how it applies to each topic of the Messianic Hanukkah Devotions that you covered during this holiday.
  - e. Craft: Star of David ornament craft:  
<http://www.evermine.com/blog/diy-hanukkah-ornaments/>