



## Chanukah - Miracle of Light

**Submitted by:** Lael Har

**Subject Area:** Holidays

**Target Age Group(s):** Kindergarten

**Abstract:** Teach about Hanukah, inspire inner reflection.

**Materials:**

1. Cardboard Chanukah symbol cutouts
2. Chanukah story
3. costumes and props
4. Menorah, Chanukah candles, matches.
5. Decorate Chanukah candles- using thick candles (Shabbat candles), wax sheets, and wood skewers as a cutting tool
6. Chanukah quiz

**Procedure:**

1. Find the Chanukah symbols (cut-outs hidden in the room). Ask What? Why? How? Glue together to create a poster.
2. Tell the Chanukah story, then children re-tell the story by acting it out (include costumes, props...)
3. Gather around; shutoff all the lights, express how it feels in the darkness? Light one candle, observe the flame (color, movement, what it dose to the darkness...), tell about the miracle of light and how we bring light to the darkest time of the year. Connect the discussion back to our daily experience and ask children how they bring light to unpleasant situations in there life.
4. Observing the flame, close eyes and see the inner flame, presence of God in us, always with us... this opens the discussion for children to share their experience of God (which they love to talk about).
5. Decorate Chanukah candles- using thick candles, wax sheets, and wood skewers as a cutting tool. Children cut out of the wax sheets designs to roll onto the candles. (The children loved this project and quietly worked on it for 45 minuets.) You can use the time for a fun Chanukah quiz or story.
6. Lighting candles, teach the Chanukah blessings. Any time you are teaching a blessing it is an opportunity to STOP, and bring attention to the power of blessing. Close the eyes and create *Kavanah* for the actions that are about to be preformed. It



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can be as simple as an inner whisper thanking God for giving us light. The key is to STOP, create KAVANAH, and a sense of APPRECIATION.

7. (Next lesson make the Menorah.)

### **Questions to Consider:**

#### **Comments and Feedback:**

The children loved this class!!!

Children learn best when knowledge and experience are integrated in the learning process by introducing kinesthetic activities, the five senses, and inner reflection. Make Jewish study fun by inspiring a sense of wonderment, curiosity and a love of learning in children. This lesson plan can be replicated with flexibility according to the teacher's inclination.

#### **Bibliography/Additional Resources:**

- Wax sheets made in Germany called Stockmar