



# Each Night a Different Light

## Topic

Hanukkah

## Grade Level(s)

All

## Goals for the Lesson/Activity

### **Students will**

- Identify Hanukkah customs that are meaningful to them
- Make connections among different *middot* (values) and Hanukkah celebrations
- Discuss one *middah* (value) with their families on each night of Hanukkah

## Materials needed

- Pages for the “Each Night a Different Light” book (You might choose to outline the pages with a candle shape so that students can cut them out.)
  - There are two versions of the book. Use the version that best fits the abilities and needs of your students.
  - Note: The pages are formatted to fit the Ellison Jumbo Die Cut
- Example of the “Each Night a Different Light” book
- Scissors
- Markers
- Hanukkah wrapping paper for students to cut out shapes and decorate the book
- Glue sticks
- Stapler

## Background for Teachers

Giving gifts to children during the eight nights of Hanukkah has become a popular custom. The origin of this custom is unclear, though it seems to be based on earlier traditions to give *gelt* (coins) to children, a custom which seems to have evolved itself from children giving gifts of money to their teachers. There is some debate on when exactly gift giving became a Hanukkah tradition, but there is some agreement that in the United States it began sometime in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and became more popular during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Hanukkah is also a time that presents opportunities to spend time together celebrating by lighting Hanukkah candles, singing Hanukkah songs, and eating foods fried in oil to commemorate the Hanukkah story. As such, Hanukkah also presents families with the opportunity to discuss values that are important to them and to think about the meaning of Hanukkah as a holiday celebrated by Jews around the world.

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Authors: Linda Sonin and Rabbi Eric Zaff



## **Each Night a Different Light**

Note: This activity would also work well as a station activity at a pre-Hanukkah party.

### **Description of Activities**

1. Think-Pair-Share
  - a. Students think of three examples of what they like about Hanukkah.
  - b. Students turn to the person next to them and share their thoughts.
  - c. Ask for a few volunteers to share one thing that they like about Hanukkah.
  - d. Pick up on some of the other things that students mention and point out the many customs that are associated with Hanukkah. If students mention getting presents, you can explain that getting presents is a relatively new tradition. (See Background for Teachers.)
2. Make the Project
  - a. Tell students that they will be making booklets to use with their families when they celebrate Hanukkah.
  - b. Show students an example of the booklet.
  - c. Hand out pages to students.
    - i. Using wrapping paper, students decorate their pages with Hanukkah themes
  - d. Staple books together.
3. Encourage students to fill out the booklet on each night of Hanukkah.
4. You might want to ask students to bring their booklets back at the end of Hanukkah to share with the class.