

CANDLE #1

INSPIRED BY FAITH, WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

1. Why do you think the Greeks were against Jews keeping their religion?
2. What life lessons can you learn from the victory of the Maccabees over the ancient Greek army?
3. Can you think of a reason why God chose a small group of people for a great task?
4. Can you give other examples from Jewish history of the “Jewish spirit”?
5. What do you think it more impressive, the military victory or the miracle of the oil?



*Based on the Teachings of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l, Ceremony & Celebration,
<https://rabbisacks.org/chanukah-family/>*

CANDLE #2

THE LIGHT OF WAR AND THE LIGHT OF PEACE

1. Does Judaism think war is wrong?
2. How can shalom bayit (peace in the home) also help bring shalom (peace) into the wider world?
3. How will you contribute to shalom bayit in your home this Chanukah?
4. Why is the family unit so important?



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CANDLE #3

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

1. What parts of Judaism bring light into our homes, represented by the Shabbat candles?
2. What parts of Judaism bring light to the outside world?
3. How can we be havdallah candles, and fuse the two, bringing the Judaism from our homes into the outside world?
4. What unique contribution can the Jewish people give to humanity?



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CANDLE #4

THE FIRST CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS

1. What were the values of Ancient Greek society, and how did they differ from Torah values?
2. Where do we see the Torah give us the idea of hope?
3. How is this hope represented in the Chanukah candles?
4. What was the real triumph of the Chanukah story?



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CANDLE #5

CHANUKAH IN OUR TIME

1. How can we be sure we will always, ultimately, win the battle?
2. Rabbi Sacks applies the messages of the Chanukah story to contemporary times. What can we learn from Chanukah to help us this year?
3. Why is Chanukah considered a festival of religious freedom?



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CANDLE #6

THE THIRD MIRACLE

1. Why do you think it is important to maintain festivals and remembrance days that commemorate historical events from generations ago?
2. How does Chanukah represent hope? Hope for what?
3. What connections are there between the Chanukah story and the modern State of Israel?



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CANDLE #7

THE LIGHT OF THE SPIRIT NEVER DIES

1. What did the Maccabees have faith in?
2. Why do you think Rabbi Sacks describes faith itself as a miracle?
3. Do you think having faith today is also a miracle?
4. What is it about Jerusalem, a Jewish school, a Jewish wedding or a Jewish family around their Shabbat table that caused Rabbi Sacks to feel awe?



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CANDLE #8

TO LIGHT ANOTHER LIGHT

1. How is sharing material goods similar to the position of Rav?
2. How is sharing spiritual or moral goods similar to the position of Shmuel?
3. How will you be like Shmuel today?
4. Does Judaism see religion as a battle or as a candle?



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