



TODAY'S TOPIC:
Hanukkah

You are welcome to use this lesson to inspire spiritual conversation in your family or youth classroom. It is written for elementary age but could be adjusted as needed.

THINKING JOB: Ask a “thinking job question” to get everyone thinking about something pertinent to the lesson. This could be asked moments or hours before your conversation.

What is a miracle?

Lesson

Hanukkah

Materials	Things to Prepare	Today's Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Menorah image 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> none 	Learn about Hanukkah as a traditional celebration of light

ASK: Do you know what this is? (Show menorah)

SHARE: Yes! This is a menorah which is used in celebration of Hanukkah. Hanukkah is an eight-day holiday that celebrates a **miracle**. Back in the 2nd century, the Greek government closed down a Jewish temple and banned Judaism. There was a revolt by the Jewish people and the temple was reclaimed and services were started again. The success of the Jewish people to continue practicing their faith was intended to be celebrated by the lighting of the Temple's Menorah but they only had enough oil for one day instead of the eight days they needed. However, miraculously, the oil lasted eight days. Hanukkah is also called The Festival of Lights. The date to celebrate Hanukkah, like other Jewish holidays, changes based upon the Jewish calendar. This year it starts tonight! The Menorah is the central focus during the holiday and many Jewish families make an effort to share this holiday with each other. They choose to be home with their families when the candles are lit to meditate and remember.

ASK: Can you guess what the candles represent? Let's count them... The 8 days the oil burned!

SHARE: The center candle is lit every night and the individual candles are lit (left to right), one per night, until on the eighth day all the candles burn together. The Menorah is always put where it can be seen by those outside of the home.

SAY: Each of us is a light in the world. We use candles in many practices as we celebrate our light. The flame of a candle reminds us to come into the light of the Divine. Each of us shines our light by sharing our gifts and talents.

ASK: What are some of your gifts and talents? How do you share your light?

READ: (or allow a kiddo to read aloud!)

One Little Candle

by J. Maloy Roach and G. Mysels

When the day is dark and dreary and your way is hard to find,
Don't let your heart be weary, just keep this thought in mind;
It is better to light just One Little Candle than to stumble in the dark,
Better far that you light just One Little Candle,
All you need's a tiny spark.

If we'd all say a prayer that the world would be free
The wonderful dawn of a new day we'll see,
And if everyone lit just One Little Candle,
What a bright world this would be.

SAY: Our affirmation today is, I celebrate my light. Let's say it together, LOUD AND PROUD!

AFFIRMATION – I am always in the light. repeat 4X

Note: Printable affirmations and coloring sheets for this lesson are available at <https://www.milehichurch.org/youth-family/> .

