

Hanukkah

In 168 B.C.E. the Temple in Jerusalem was taken over by Syrian-Greek soldiers, and used to worship of the god Zeus. This upset the Jewish people, but many were afraid to fight in case they lost. Later, the Syrian-Greek emperor Antiochus insisted all Jews worship Zeus and not Yahweh. A revolt was then led by the Maccabees. Jewish troops eventually won the battle and wanted to cleanse the Temple by burning ritual oil in the Temple's menorah for eight days. But to their dismay, they discovered that there was only one day's worth of oil left in the Temple. They lit the menorah anyway and to their surprise the small amount of oil lasted the full eight days.

This was said to be a miracle and so the festival of Hanukkah is celebrated by lighting a menorah (an eight branched candlestick), to remind the people of this event.



- 1 Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- 2 Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Look at the pictures, which ones do you like?
Which part of the story did you like?
- 3 Try making potato latkes with the children, you'll find a recipe sheet on iChild.
- 4 For additional Hanukkah resources such as colouring in sheets, greeting card templates and crafts, visit the Hanukkah section on iChild.

The Story of Hanukkah



**Families celebrate
Hanukkah by lighting
one candle each evening
during the festival.**



There are also special foods that are eaten, such as doughnuts and potato latkes. Potato latkes are made from grated potatoes and onion and then fried.



**A special game using
a Dreidel is played.**



**It is a time for
celebration and fun,
but not forgetting
the serious story
associated with the
worship of God.**