

## Eight Values of Hanukkah

On Hanukkah we celebrate our freedom to be Jews. Being Jewish means not only lighting a hanukkiyah, but it also means acting in accordance with Jewish values. Choose a different value each night and discuss it with your family. Try to think of at least three ways you can make each idea come alive in your home, school, or workplace. Write your responses on the following pages. At the end of Hanukkah, fill out your Hanukkah “certificate” and hang it proudly on your ‘fridge!

### ***Mitzvah: Commitment to religious observance***

Mattathias and his followers were determined to observe Jewish law. They were willing to fight for that right. **What *mitzvot* and traditions are you committed to observing?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

### ***Emunah: Faith***

The followers of the Maccabees had faith that God would help them overcome their enemies, no matter how many or how powerful those enemies were. **In what way do you express your *emunah* in God?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

### ***Tikkun Olam: Making the world a better place***

The followers of the Maccabees were committed to the ideal that Jewish values and behaviors bring about a better world for all. They believed that they had a responsibility to act as God’s partners in perfecting the world. **How do you contribute to perfecting the world?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

### ***Hiddur Mitzvah: Performing a *mitzvah* in a more ideal way***

When the Jews regained the Temple, they devoted themselves to cleaning and purifying it to the utmost degree possible. Although it was permissible to use impure oil to rekindle the hanukkiyah, the Jews preferred to wait until pure olive oil arrived. **What do you do to make your holiday observance ideal?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

***Hakarat Hatov: Gratitude***

The original celebration of Hanukkah showed appreciation of God’s help in defeating the Greeks and today many Jewish communities recite psalms of praise, *Hallel*, during the eight days of Hanukkah.

**What are things that you appreciate? How do you show this appreciation?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

***Am Yisrael Chai: Jewish Pride***

Mattathias and his followers were proud to be Jews and to live in a Jewish way. They were determined to continue to do so. **How do you show your determination to continue to live as a Jew?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

***G’vurah: Standing up for your beliefs***

Although ill-equipped and greatly outnumbered, the Jews fought against the powerful Syrian-Greek army with its trained soldiers and plentiful equipment. **In what ways do you stand up for your beliefs even if people disagree with you?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

***Kiddush HaShem: Behaving in a way that brings honor to God***

In everything that they did, the Maccabees served as an example of what God expects of people. **In what ways do your actions bring honor to God?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

**What are some Jewish values NOT included in this list that you would like to “act” on?**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)