



# Chanukah Blessings



**The first candle should be lit on Sunday night, December 2, 2018.** Each night, the candles are placed in the menorah from right to left and kindled from left to right. The home ceremony could include: 1) lighting the shamash candle; 2) reading of the day; 3) blessings below; 4) lighting the Chanukah candles; 5) singing of Chanukah songs ([mzion.org](http://mzion.org)).

## Blessing for the Shamash (recited each day):

As one candle may kindle many others, yet lose none of its own light, so Judaism has kindled the lights of justice and freedom in many ages for many peoples. In a time of darkness, our ancestors had the courage to struggle for freedom to be themselves, freedom to worship in their own way. Theirs was the victory of the weak over the strong, the few over the many, and the righteous over the arrogant. It was a victory for all ages and all peoples. Let the lights we kindle shine forth for the world. May they illuminate our lives, even as they fill us with gratitude that our faith has been saved from extinction time and again. As Chanukah means “rededication”, **we rededicate ourselves this Chanukah to these middot, values:**

**1st night:** The Middah of *Gratitude*. “It is good to give thanks...”  
-Psalm 92

**2nd night:** The Middah of *Holiness*. Each of us is a holy soul.

**3rd night:** The Middah of *Justice*. “Justice, Justice shall you pursue.”  
-Deuteronomy 16:20

**4th night:** The Middah of *Compassion*. “Adonai our God is Compassionate and Gracious.” -Exodus 34:6

**5th night:** The Middah of *Courage*. “Be strong and of Good Courage.” Exodus 31:6

**6th night:** The Middah of *Hope*. “God desires not sacrifices, but hope.” -Midrash Psalms

**7th night:** The Middah of *Love*. “Love your neighbor as yourself.”  
-Leviticus 19:18

**8th night:** The Middah of *Peace* “May God bless you with peace.”  
-Numbers 6:26

**To discuss each night:** In what ways does this value help us want to change something in our lives or in our society?

**On all nights, after the shamash is lit and reading is done (see box on the left of this page), recite:**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר  
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל  
חֲנֻכָּה.

*Baruch ata A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha'olam, asher kid'sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav vetzi-va-nu l'had-lik nair shel Chanukah. Start lighting candles as next prayer is said.*

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with Your mitzvot and commanded us to kindle the light of Chanukah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה  
נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאַמְתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵן  
הַזֶּה.

*Baruch ata A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha'olam, she'asa n'sim la'avotaynu v'imo-tei-nu ba'ya'mim ha'haim ba'zman ha'zeh. More songs on back...*

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

**On first night only:**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁחַיֵּינוּ  
וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch ata A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha'olam, she-he-che-ya-nu v'ki-y'-ma-nu v'hi-gi-a-nu laz-man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to celebrate this season.

# More Chanukah Prayers

## Maoz Tzur

*Ma-oz tzur y'shu-a-ti, le-cha na-eh l'sha-bei-ach*

מְעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נִאֶה לְשִׁבְחֲךָ,

*Ti-kon beit t'fi-la-ti, v'sham to-da n'za-bei-ach*

תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תִּפְלְתִי וְשָׁם תִּזְדַּה נְצִיבֲךָ,

*L'eit ta-chin mat-bei-ach, mi-tzar ham'na-bei-ach*

לֵעֵת תִּכּוֹן מִטְבְּחֲךָ מִצָּר הַמְּנִיבֲךָ,

*Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor Cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ach*

אֶז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּזִיבֲךָ.

*Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor Cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ach*

Rock of Ages let our song praise Thy saving power

Thou amidst the raging foes wast our shelt'ring tower

Furious they assailed us, but Thine arm availed us

And Thy word broke their sword when our own strength failed us (2X).

## HaNerot Halalu

הַנְּרוֹת הַקְּלוּ אֶנְחֵנוּ מִדְּלִיקִים עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל הַנְּפִלְאוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל  
הַמְּלַחְמוֹת, שְׁעֲשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה. וְכָל שְׁמוֹנַת יָמֵי חֲנֻכַּת הַנְּרוֹת  
הַקְּלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהַשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֶלָּא לְרְאוֹתָם בְּלִבָּד, כְּדִי לְהוֹדוֹת  
וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל, עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתֶךָ.

*Ha-ne-rot ha-la-lu a-na-chnu ma-dli-kin Al ha-nis-sim ve'al ha-nif-la-ot Al ha-tshu-ot ve'al ha-mil-cha-mot  
She-a-si-ta la'avo-tey-nu Ba-ya-mim ha-hem, ba-z'man ha-zeh. Ve-chol shmo-nat ye-mey Chanukah  
Ha-ne-rot ha-la-lu ko-desh hem, Ve-ein la-nu re-shut le-hish-ta-mesh ba-hem E-la li-ro-tam bil-vad Ke-dai  
le-ho-dot le-shim-cha Al nis-se-cha ve-al nif-lo-te-cha ve-al ye-shu-o-te-cha.*

We kindle these lights for the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During these eight days of Chanukah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.

