HANUKKAH 2026 • 25 KISLEV 5787

Menorah Lighting Guide

Eight nights • begins at sundown Friday 4 December • ends at nightfall Saturday 12 December 2026



How to light

1. Place the candles in the menorah from RIGHT to LEFT — one more each night — plus the shamash (helper candle).
2. Light the shamash first, then say the blessings (blessing 3 on the first night only).
3. Use the shamash to light the NEWEST candle (the one furthest left) first, then continue to the right.
4. Set the menorah in a window or doorway so the light can be seen. Candles should burn at least 30 minutes after nightfall.
5. On Friday, light before the Shabbat candles (use longer candles). On Saturday, light after Shabbat ends.

NIGHT	EVENING OF	CANDLES + SHAMASH	BLESSINGS	NOTE
1	Friday, Dec 4		1, 2 & 3	Light before the Shabbat candles (before sunset).
2	Saturday, Dec 5		1 & 2	Light after Shabbat ends (after Havdalah).
3	Sunday, Dec 6		1 & 2	Light at nightfall.
4	Monday, Dec 7		1 & 2	Light at nightfall.
5	Tuesday, Dec 8		1 & 2	Light at nightfall.
6	Wednesday, Dec 9		1 & 2	Light at nightfall.
7	Thursday, Dec 10		1 & 2	Light at nightfall.
8	Friday, Dec 11		1 & 2	Light before the Shabbat candles (before sunset).

Why eight nights?

Hanukkah remembers the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BCE. Tradition tells that a small jar of pure oil, enough for one day, kept the menorah burning for eight nights. Blue candle in the table = shamash.

SAID BEFORE LIGHTING

The Hanukkah Candle Blessings

Hebrew • transliteration • English meaning

Blessing 1 — Kindling the lights

EVERY NIGHT

ברוך אתה ה׳ אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה

SAY IT

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

MEANING

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has made us holy with Your commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah light.

Blessing 2 — For the miracles (she-asah nissim)

EVERY NIGHT

ברוך אתה ה׳ אלהינו מלך העולם שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה

SAY IT

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam, she'asah nissim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim bazman hazeh.

MEANING

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this season.

Blessing 3 — Shehecheyanu

FIRST NIGHT ONLY

ברוך אתה ה׳ אלהינו מלך העולם שהחינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

SAY IT

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.

MEANING

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

In the Hebrew text, God's name is abbreviated (Hashem) out of respect. Many families sing Ma'oz Tzur after lighting.

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Eight Nights of Light

cut apart • read one card each night after lighting • talk, reflect, do one kind thing

NIGHT 1

Light & beginnings



Share one thing you're hoping for this winter.

Kindness: call or message a grandparent or friend.

NIGHT 2

Rest & togetherness



What's your favourite family tradition, and why?

Kindness: let someone else choose tonight's game.

NIGHT 3

Courage



The Maccabees were brave. When were you brave this year?

Kindness: stand up for or include someone.

NIGHT 4

Gratitude



Name three small things you're grateful for today.

Kindness: write a thank-you note.

NIGHT 5

Giving



What could our family give to others this week?

Kindness: donate a toy, book or warm clothes.

NIGHT 6

Miracles



What felt like a little miracle to you this year?

Kindness: share your gelt or a treat.

NIGHT 7

Learning



Tell the story of the oil that lasted eight nights.

Kindness: teach someone a dreidel game.

NIGHT 8

Shining bright



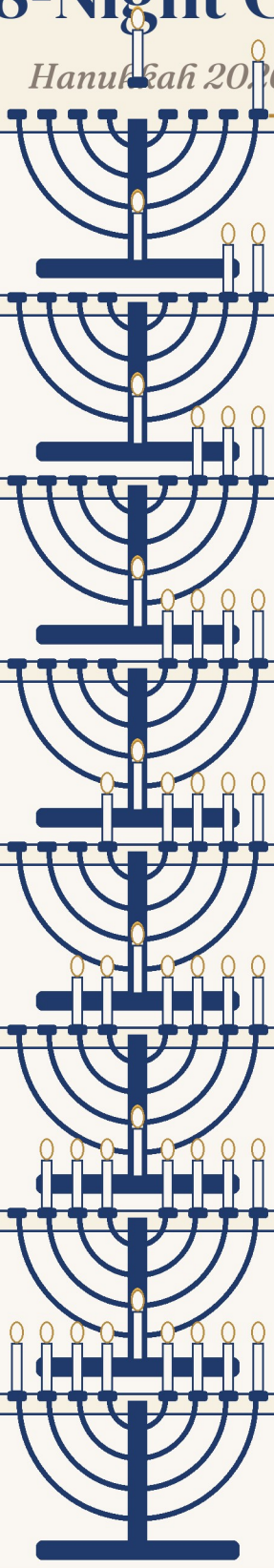
How can you bring light to someone else?

Kindness: do a secret good deed for a neighbour.

COLOUR A CANDLE EACH NIGHT

8-Night Candle Tracker

Hanukkah 2026 • December 4–11 evenings



Night 1

Friday, Dec 4

☐ lit!

Who lit tonight: _____

Kind deed / gift: _____

Favourite moment: _____

Night 2

Saturday, Dec 5

☐ lit!

Who lit tonight: _____

Kind deed / gift: _____

Favourite moment: _____

Night 3

Sunday, Dec 6

☐ lit!

Who lit tonight: _____

Kind deed / gift: _____

Favourite moment: _____

Night 4

Monday, Dec 7

☐ lit!

Who lit tonight: _____

Kind deed / gift: _____

Favourite moment: _____

Night 5

Tuesday, Dec 8

☐ lit!

Who lit tonight: _____

Kind deed / gift: _____

Favourite moment: _____

Night 6

Wednesday, Dec 9

☐ lit!

Who lit tonight: _____

Kind deed / gift: _____

Favourite moment: _____

Night 7

Thursday, Dec 10

☐ lit!

Who lit tonight: _____

Kind deed / gift: _____

Favourite moment: _____

Night 8

Friday, Dec 11

☐ lit!

Who lit tonight: _____

Kind deed / gift: _____

Favourite moment: _____