

## What is Hanukkah?

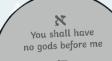
- Hanukkah or Chanukah is the Jewish festival of light.
- The word Hanukkah means rededication.
- It dates back to two hundred years before the start of Christianity.
- Hanukkah celebrates one of the greatest miracles in Jewish history.



## The Story of Hanukkah

The festival reminds Jewish people of when, 2500 years ago, a Syrian king tried to make them worship Greek gods and bow to statues.

#### This was forbidden by the **Ten Commandments**.



You shall not make any idols to worship

**X** You shall not take the Lord's name in vain

Remember and keep the Sabbath holy

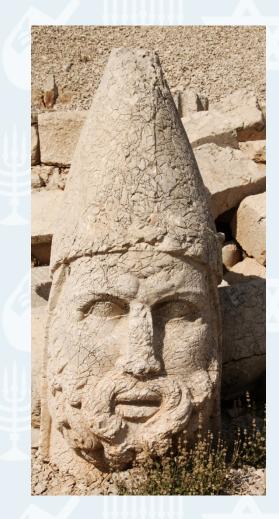
Honour your father and mother You shall not kill You shall not

commit adultery

T You shall not steal

You shall not bear false witness

You shall not covet your neighbour's wife nor goods



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# <u>The Story of Hanukkah</u>

A small group of Jewish people called the **Maccabees** rebelled. After a three year war, the Maccabees recaptured **Jerusalem** from the **Syrians**.

The Jewish people repaired the temple which had been ruined and rededicated it to God by lighting a lamp. They only had enough oil to light the lamp for one day but, miraculously, it stayed alight for **eight days.** 



## How is Hanukkah Celebrated?



A **hanukkiah** is lit by Jewish people. One candle is lit for each day of the festival.

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A menorah has only seven candleholders. This was the lamp used in the ancient holy temple in

A Hanukkiah, however, has nine candlesticks — one for each night of Hanukkah and an extra one to light the others.

However, these words are often used interchangeably.



### **Star of David** is displayed.





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#### Latkes are eaten.

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### **Candles** are lit.

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### **Gelt** (money) is given out – often to children and teachers

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