

The Tradition of Hanukkah

Hanukkah, which begins on the darkest night of the year, brings light to darkness. We remember the Maccabees who fought the Assyrians so that the Jewish people could live in freedom. When the Maccabees won their battle, they returned to the sacred Temple in Jerusalem to rebuild it and rededicate it to God. The word Hanukkah means dedication. But the season was winter, the darkest time of the year. They did not have enough oil to light lamps that would help them see to do their work. They searched and searched, but they could only find enough oil to last one night. Then there was a miracle! They lit the oil, and it lasted for eight nights. They were sure that God helped the oil last that long. Because God brought light to the people, the people felt happy and bright. They felt the light in themselves and in their families.

Hanukkah is sometimes called the Festival of Lights. The tradition of Hanukkah is continued each year by lighting the menorah and telling the story.

