



Al Hanisim

Ideas for games and activities for Chanuka for the whole family

Dreidel Games

The classic game from your father's house - Each person receives the same number of coins. At the beginning of each turn every person puts a coin in the middle. Each person spins the dreidel at his turn and acts according to the letter that the dreidel lands on.

- נ - Skip your turn
- ג - The player takes all of the money from the middle
- ה - The player takes half of the money from the middle
- פ - The player needs to pay the middle one coin

The Dreidel Dance 1 - Spin a dreidel. As long as it is spinning, all the participants must dance and spin, and when it stops spinning then all of the participants must fall.

The last person to fall drinks a cup of water.

The Dreidel Dance 2 - Play music. Everyone spins, and when the music stops check to see who can walk in a straight line.



Who comes to the Chanuka party?

One person goes out of the room, and three other players are assigned characters that are coming to a party. The person who went out of the room comes back inside, and needs to guess who these characters are by asking questions to the three players. The three players need to answer the questions in character.

Character examples:

Antiochus, Matityahu, donut, dreidel, latke, menorah, the small jug of oil, Greek person, etc.

Examples of questions and answers:

1. What do you like to do?

The donut answers: sometimes to eat, sometimes to dress up in red or white, play in oil...

2. What do you like to eat?

The Menorah answers: a lot of oil, but at night not in the morning.

3. Do you have friends?

The small jug of oil answers all of my friends broke, and I am left alone.



The Maccabee against the Greeks

Separate into two groups - Greeks and the Maccabees

1. Each group needs to create a song about itself that explains why it is the better team.
2. Have a tickling war between the two groups, and whoever forfeits the other group wins
3. Have a sports tournament and see who is better (who runs the fastest from the bedroom to the living room, who can do the best pushups, lifting weights, etc.)



“We came to banish the darkness”

Candle Tag - Everyone runs around like candles in the house (raise your hands up). The person who is it needs to try to “light” the candles by giving a high five to one of the hands. That person then becomes “it”.

Driving out the darkness - Make the house dark and light candles or flashlights. Tell everyone what ‘darkness’ you want to drive out of your lives, and what ‘light’ you want to ‘light’.

The miracle of Chanuka

What is the big miracle of Chanukah? We had many big miracles. Everyone in the family receives a miracle, and he needs to convince everyone that his miracle is the most important.

Miracle 1 - The victory of the Maccabees over the Greeks - few vs. many.

Miracle 2 - The re-dedication of the Beit Hamikdash- Renewing the Kohen’s job in the Beit Hamikdash.

Miracle 3 - A small jug of oil - Oil that was able to burn for eight days.

Miracle 4 - Negating the evil decrees.



A small jug

Look in your house for a small jug (or bottle), and every person writes a wishes for himself the next year, then he folds it and puts it in the jug.

Open the jug on Chanukah next year, and see what you wished for yourself...

HAPPY HANUKKAH

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