

Chanukah Kavanot

When we meditate on the lights of the Chanukah menorah we remember that Chanukah symbolizes the victory of the weak over the mighty and the few over the many. Chanukah is the time of the year when we strive to spread the light of our candles both physically and metaphorically. Below are some *kavanot* (intentions) written by Rashi students. When you light your candles each night, please add one of these *kavanot*, or one of your own. This helps our children think of the world beyond themselves and deepens our own celebrations by helping us to be an *Or la goyim* – a light unto the nations.

Shamash:

May the light of the Hanukkah candles remind us that no matter how bad our situation is there is always someone who needs your help even more: Blessed are you O Lord our God who reminds us that there are those in need of more help than we are.

First Candle

We hope that the light of the candle will give us the strength to find cures for illness! Blessed are you Adonai, King/Queen of the Universe, may you find a cure for cancer, heal the sick and restore them to full health. May you help those searching for cures, and may you give strength to all care givers.

Second Candle

May the light of this candle enable the world to understand Israel and be on her side. Blessed are you Adonai our God. We pray that you help the troops defending the State of Israel and bring them the support of the world.

Third Candle

We will shine the light of this Hanukkah candle on teenagers so they do not use drugs and alcohol any more. Blessed are you Adonai, our God, who helps teenagers make good, safe choices.

Fourth Candle

We light this candle in the hope that all those who currently experience poverty will soon have a better life. We hope that the light and warmth from this candle will brighten the darkness in their lives. Blessed are you Adonai, our God, who helps eliminate poverty.

Fifth Candle

We pray that the energy from the light of the Hanukkah candles will help the troops in Iraq complete their mission safely. We bless You, Adonai our God, that our armed forces come home safely, as did the Maccabees who fought for our freedom.

Sixth Candle

We hope that these lights will bring safety and shelter to the children affected by Hurricane Katrina. Blessed are You Eternal our God who brings light into the lives of Katrina victims.

Seventh Candle

As we light these candles, we hope that you are inspired to bring light into another person's life. Maybe you could stand up to a bully and make friends with someone who has been bullied. May it Your Will O Lord our God that those who have been blessed, help those in need of blessing.

Eighth Candle

May the light of Hanukkah help God heal all sick people. Millions of people die from AIDS. Millions of families lose people from this horrible disease. Please God help all people with AIDS heal and not spread the disease.