

Ner Shel Tzedakah

“Candle of Righteousness”



In addition to engaging in the mitzvah (commandment) of lighting the Hanukkah candles, many families and individuals dedicate the sixth night of Hanukkah to considering how to perform mitzvot that can positively impact others. Some donate the value of the gifts that otherwise would be exchanged that night. JFS Jewish Disabilities Advocates dedicates this night to offering the gift of time to family and friends with chronic health conditions or donating funds to organizations supporting those with such conditions. By doing so, we help the Jewish candle of righteousness glow brightly for everyone.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹיָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְלִמְדֵינוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל צְדָקָה.

**Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Haolam, Asher Kidshanu B'mitzvotav,
V'limdeinu L'Hadlik Ner Shel Tzedakah**

**Blessed are You, Eternal, our God, who makes us holy through the
performance of mitzvot, and inspires us to light the Candle of Righteousness.**

To engage children in the work of disability inclusion, ask them to color in the attached Hanukkah menorah. Together explore the meaning of the words in the candles as they relate to inclusion of people with disabilities. Here are some suggested discussion questions for before or after lighting the candles:

1st Night (Awareness)

What is a disability? Do you know anyone with a disability? Not all disabilities are visible. Can you think of a disability that you can't see?

2nd Night (Listening)

Ask your child to share something special about their day and repeat back to them what you heard. Then, share something special about your day with your child and ask them to repeat it back to you. Let them know this is a way to practice active listening. When did you feel someone really listened to you? How did that make you feel? How can we listen to our friends with disabilities?

3rd Night (Respect)

When do you feel respected? How can you show respect for people with disabilities?

4th Night (Patience)

When have you had to be really patient? Can you describe an example where patience was important? How might patience be particularly important for people with disabilities?

5th Night (Kindness)

Who shows you kindness? How do you show kindness to others?

6th Night (Tzedek/Justice)

What does justice mean to you? How do you bring more justice to the world for people with disabilities?

7th Night (Support)

Have you ever asked for support? Has anyone offered you support when you didn't want it, or you wanted something different? How might you ask someone with a disability how to support them?

8th Night (Inclusion)

Have you ever felt left out or excluded from something? What could you have done or what could others have done to make you feel included? How do you include others? How do you make sure people with disabilities are included?



