**The Story of Chanukah in Brief**

**REMEMBERING LIGHT:** During the time of the second Jewish Temple, cruel Greeks ruled the Holy Land. They robbed the Jews of their property, and set up idols in the temple. No one could stand up against them until Judas Maccabees and his sons rose up and drove them from the land. The Chanukah lights are a reminder of the great miracle of when a small band of Jews defeated the mighty Greek armies.

**FIGHTING FOR LIGHT:** The Greeks were philosophers. They accepted the Torah as a book of wisdom, but not as something holy that connected the Jewish people to God. In the end, they made Torah learning illegal, and they outlawed additional Jewish teachings, the Sabbath, and the holiness of Jewish marriage. The Maccabees rebelled and risked their lives to keep Torah and the Jewish way of worship alive.

**THE MIRACLE OF LIGHT**: An even greater miracle than defeating the Greek armies was the miracle of the oil. The Greeks had made all the oil in the Temple impure. Miraculously, the Maccabees found one jar that had been overlooked. But the jar was only enough oil for one day. They lit it anyway, and God made a miracle. The oil burned for eight days. It was proof to the Jews that the Spirit of God dwelt with the Jews.

**JOYOUS LIGHT:** With tremendous joy, the Jews cleansed the Temple and began to serve God once again. Since that day Jewish people everywhere celebrate with Chanukah parties, with dreidels, latkes, and Chanukah gifts.

**ADDING LIGHT:** Each day of Chanukah, Jewish families light another candle till all eight candles of the Menorah are ablaze. By adding a candle every night for 8 days, Jewish families remember the miracle of Chanukah, and the oil that lasted for eight days during the time of the Maccabees. They are careful not to use it for any other purpose than to just look at the candles and listen to the story that they tell.

