



## Lesson Plan for the Third Grade

# From olive tree to lamp oil

The third grade lesson plan deals in becoming familiar with the olive tree and its fruit, olive oil and its uses, properties of the olive tree and its fruit, and the symbolic meanings of the olive. In addition, there is the option of learning the olive pressing process and production of olive oil.

### Put oil – between oil and Chanukah

Introduction to the story of the miracle of the cruse of oil  
Songs and customs connected with oil on Chanukah.

### Introduction to the olive tree and olive fruit

Learning the properties of the olive through stories and legends

### Dove with olive branch – introduction to the symbolic meanings of the olive and its oil

Olive, symbol of peace; and oil, symbol of kingdom and abundance





# Put oil – Chanukah customs conneted with oil

## 1. Introduction:

- What Chanukah customs connected with oil are you familiar with?
- What songs that mention oil are you familiar with?
- Why are oily foods eaten on Chanukah?

## 2. Read the Talmudic story; explain difficult words

### **Babylonian Talmud, Shabbath 21 b**

What is Chanukah? What is [the reason of] Chanukah? For our Rabbis taught: On the twenty-fifth of Kislev [commence] the days of Hanukkah ...for when the Greeks entered the Temple, they defiled all the oils therein, and when the Hasmonean dynasty prevailed against and defeated them, they made search and found only one cruse of oil which lay with the seal of the High Priest but which contained sufficient for one day's lighting only; yet a miracle was wrought therein and they lit [the lamp] therewith for eight days. The following year these [days] were appointed a Festival with [the recital of] Hallel and thanksgiving.

- Draw a picture from the story.
- What was the problem the Hasmoneans faced? Why couldn't they find oil to light the menorah with?
- Why is the oil important? What meaning does lighting the menorah have? What does it symbolize?





### 3. Reading / singing the songs

- What do the songs on the connection between the oil and Chanukah say?
- Why is the oil used for? What does it symbolize? (The oil is used to light the menorah in the Temple; it produces light and symbolizes freedom).

#### A Little Jug

Lyrics: Aharon Ashman

Music: Yoel Velbah

A little jug, a little jug

For eight days its oil did burn

All the nation wondered how

It stayed so full and lasted through

All the nation gathered there

And: "It's a miracle!" did declare

Had this little jug not been left

The Temple of light would have been bereft.

#### Pour In Some Oil

Lyrics: Levin Kipnis

Pour in some oil, olive oil,

Light candles, in our home let there be light!

We shall have light! We shall have freedom!

So let's make it bright and with delight

- Sing for eight days long the song of light.





## The Olive Tree and Olive Oil

1. Go outside near an olive tree or bring an olive branch and olives into the classroom.  
Look, smell and feel.  
Ask: What properties do olives have? What shape is the tree? What shape are the leaves? What form is the fruit? What is the fruit's flavor and texture?
2. The tribes of Israel received blessings two times: One time when Jacob blessed his sons, and the second time when Moses blessed the tribes. Write the blessing of Asher on the blackboard: Out of Asher his bread shall be fat... Most blessed of sons is Asher... .'
  - What word appears in both blessings? (Fat, oil)
  - Why do Jacob and Moses bless with oil? What are the properties of oil that make it a blessing? Why shall he provide delicacies fit for a king? (Expensive high-quality oil, a status symbol)
  - What connection could Asher have with oil and olives? (Asher dwells in the Western Galilee, a region in which olives are grown)

### Genesis 49 – Jacob Blesses His Sons

1 Then Jacob called for his sons and said: “Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come. 2 Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel...

3 Asher's food will be rich; he will provide delicacies fit for a king.

### Deuteronomy 33 – Blessing of Moses to the Tribes of Israel





1 And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel: Before his death...

24 And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil.

3. The olive is one of the seven species; read the verse.

- Why was the olive chosen as one of the seven species?
- How is the land of the seven species described? (A good land); what can we learn from this about the olive and the seven species? (A symbol of good and plenty)

#### Deuteronomy 8:7-8

7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land: a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills. 8 A land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey.

4. Yotam's parable – the olive's properties – read the verse and explain:

- Why does the olive refuse to become king?
- What properties that characterize it is it afraid to lose?





## Judges 9

8 One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree, Be our king. 9 “But the olive tree answered, ‘Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and humans are honored, to hold sway over the trees?’

## Legends and stories

Why is the olive tree hollow? On the day King Solomon died, a deep mourning descended upon the world. The earth’s inhabitants, the animals whose language the King could speak, and even the plants and the trees – all went into mourning. However, most of all it was the fruit trees who mourned – the fig, the pomegranate, and the grapevine. As a sign of sorrow and mourning, they shed their green leaves and stood bare. Only the branches of the olive tree continued to blossom and remained covered with abundant shimmering green foliage.

The trees looked at the olive tree, saw its appearance and wondered: You, the king of trees, does it not behoove you to mourn the death of the King? The olive tree replied: “You have all shed your leaves to display your sorrow in public; but your sorrow is superficial and fleeting, and you shall soon grow new leave and return to your daily routines; whereas my sorrow is deep and concealed in my heart; but the sorrow is constant, for my heart has gone dry with the bitter news, and the marrow of my trunk is rotting and being consumed.” To this day, the cavity within the olive tree is very large, and its thick sturdy trunk is furrowed with deep wrinkles, twisted like braids.





### Questions and activity in wake of the story

- How do all of the trees mourn? How does the olive tree mourn?
- Which properties of the olive tree are mentioned in the story? (Forever green, hollow trunk)
- According to the story, what character traits does the olive tree have? How is it different from the rest of the trees? (Introverted, honest – does not do things just to make an impression)
- Dramatize the story.

### The Little Judge / S. Ben-Zion

A tale of two storekeepers whose stores were right next to each other: One had a store that sold all kinds of perfume; the other sold different kinds of oil. Only a thin partition made of planks divided them.

One evening, at closing time,

the perfume vendor peeked through the crack in the partition into the oil vendor's store, and saw him counting dinars of gold into a red handkerchief. He counted with him and found that the sum amounted to one hundred and sixty five dinars. He became jealous and began to covet his neighbor's money.

What did this perfume do? He went outside and began to shout: Robbery! My money has been stolen from me!

Police patrolling the city arrived at once and asked him: Who do you suspect?

He said: I don't know... No one has been here since I wrapped them into my red handkerchief, except for my next-door neighbor. They checked at the neighbor's store and found in his possession one hundred and sixty five dinars, wrapped in a red handkerchief.



The latter shouted and swore: These coins belong to me!

But they didn't believe him. They took him to jail, and the prosecution handed him over to the city judge.

The judge investigated the parties but could not reach a decision. Therefore, the case was referred to a higher court. All in town were talking of this story, but no one had any idea how to justice could be achieved.

One evening, the mayor of the town went for an outing in a suburb, and saw Jewish children playing in the street. The mayor heard one of them say: What do you say, my friends? I shall be the judge and make a decision in the perfume and oil case.

The mayor stood aside under one of the trees and watched them play this game. The children appointed one from among them and sat him down on a large stone, as judge presiding over the trial. Two others came and stood before him. One, the oil vendor, said: These one hundred and sixty five dinars are mine; I wrapped them in my red handkerchief and put them in a box. Then this man came and stole them from me.

The judge then said: Someone bring a bowl of hot water to put the dinars in, and we shall see: If an oil film should form on the surface, we will know that the dinars belong to the oil vendor, since his hands are busy with oil and make the coins oily. If not, then they must surely belong to the perfume vendor.

The mayor immediately came out of his hiding place and kissed the child-judge on the head, took down his name and that of his father, and left. The next day, the mayor went to the court and said: Call upon the perfume and oil vendors and I shall judge their case.

The news spread like wildfire throughout the town, and a large crowd came to hear the trial presided by the mayor.

The parties were brought in and stated their cases. The mayor ordered that the pile of coins be brought before him, as well as a bowl of hot water. And so it was done. He took





the coins and immersed them in the bowl of hot water, and right away, an oil film formed on the surface of the water. The judge called a policeman and said: Show the bowl to the audience...

### Questions and activity in wake of the story

- Stop reading the story when the mayor sees the children, and ask: Try to make up an end to the story; what will the children do? How will the mayor react?
- Then continue to read until the end.
  - Which figures appear in the story? What characterizes each one of them?
  - What solution does the child propose? What property of the oil does the test rely on?
- Perform an experiment. Bring some water, rub oil on your hands, put your hands in the water, and check whether the oil floats.
- Dramatize/draw pictures from the story.



## Dove with an olive branch – the symbolism of the olive tree

- Look at the following symbols; try and identify what or whom they represent.

ד. _____	ג. _____	ב. _____	א. _____
ה. _____	ז. _____	ו. _____	ה. _____

Answers to the symbols:

- Dove with olive branch – symbol of peace
- Menorah and olive branches – symbol of the State of Israel
- Lion and olive branches – symbol of Jerusalem
- Sword and olive branch in a Star of David – symbol of the IDF
- A spade, an arrow and a stalk of grain between olive leaves – symbol of the HaNoar HaOved VeHaLomed Youth Movement.



6. A torch, stalk of grain and the Land of Israel between olive branches – symbol of the HaMahanot HaOlim Youth Movement.
7. The olive tree – symbol of the IDF Golani Brigade
8. The Ten Commandments, scythe, olive tree and stalk – symbol of the Bnei Akiva Youth Movement.

We shall ask:

- The olive appears in many important symbols; why is this?
- What does the olive tree represent in all of these symbols? (abundance/peace)

### The olive tree – symbol of peace

We shall ask: How did the olive tree become a symbol of peace?

#### Genesis 8, 12

6 After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark 7 and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. 9 But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. 10 He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. 11 When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. 12 He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

- Why did Noah send the dove?
- What did the dove bring in its beak? What does the leaf symbolize?



- What is the connection between the story of Noah's Ark and peace? Between who does peace need to be made in the story?

### Olive oil – anointment of kings

Another use of olive oil is the anointment of kings – you may read part of the story of King Saul's anointment.

#### Samuel 9:15–16

15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed this to Samuel: 16 About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him ruler over my people Israel; he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me.

#### Chapter 10

**Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, Has not the Lord anointed you ruler over his inheritance?**

- Why is oil used for the anointment of kings?
- What properties of oil does this express?

#### Samuel 9:15–16

15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed this to Samuel 16 About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him ruler over my people Israel; he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me. 17 When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the Lord said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people. 18 Saul





approached Samuel in the gateway and asked, “Would you please tell me where the seer’s house is. 19 I am the seer, Samuel replied. Go up ahead of me to the high place, for today you are to eat with me, and in the morning I will send you on your way and will tell you all that is in your heart. 20 As for the donkeys you lost three days ago, do not worry about them; they have been found. And to whom is all the desire of Israel turned, if not to you and your whole family line. {s} 21 Saul answered, “But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me. {s} 22 Then Samuel brought Saul and his servant into the hall and seated them at the head of those who were invited –about thirty in number. 23 Samuel said to the cook, Bring the piece of meat I gave you, the one I told you to lay aside. 24 So the cook took up the thigh with what was on it and set it in front of Saul. Samuel said, Here is what has been kept for you. Eat, because it was set aside for you for this occasion from the time I said, ‘I have invited guests. And Saul dined with Samuel that day. 25 After they came down from the high place to the town, Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house. 26 They rose about daybreak, and Samuel called to Saul on the roof, “Get ready, and I will send you on your way. When Saul got ready, he and Samuel went outside together. 27 As they were going down to the edge of the town, Samuel said to Saul, Tell the servant to go on ahead of us—and the servant did so—but you stay here for a while, so that I may give you a message from God. {p}



## Chapter 10

**Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, Has not the Lord anointed you ruler over his inheritance.**

20 When Samuel had all Israel come forward by tribes, the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. 21 Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was taken. Finally Saul son of Kish was taken. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found. 22 They inquired further of the Lord, "Has the man come here yet; {s} And the Lord said, Yes, he has hidden himself among the supplies. 23 They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. 24 Samuel said to all the people, Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people. Then the people shouted, Long live the king!

## Numbers Rabbah Portion 8 Verse 9

Your sons, like young olive trees around your table (Psalms 128:3) – Just as the olive tree gives olives to be eaten, dry olives as well as olives for oil, its oil burns better than any other oil, and its leaves do not fall, neither in the summer nor in the winter, so it is with the sons of converts, some are learned in the Bible and others in the Mishna, some are businessmen, some are wise, some are smart, and some are knowledgeable people, and their offspring shall exist eternally. Around your table – that your sons shall be credited with your virtue, that from your table your sons shall attain great virtues.

