

Second Grade Lesson Plan on Light

1. Review of the holiday's symbols and customs
2. Let there be light
 - The Story of Creation – reading the story, and in-depth discussion of the meaning of light in it.
3. Gradually dwindling light
 - The Talmudic story on the Holiday of Light in the period of growing darkness.
 - Why do we celebrate the Holiday of Light precisely at this time? Familiarity with similar customs in other cultures.
4. Everyone is a small light
 - The meaning of light in our lives; the symbolic meaning of light.
 - Reinforcing a positive image of myself and my friends.





Let There Be Light

Genesis Chapter 1

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
- 4 And God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.
- 5 God called the light “day”, and the darkness he called “night”. And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Guidance

- We shall read the paragraph and explain difficult words.
- Mark the words ‘light’ and ‘darkness’. How many times does each of them appear?
- What is the action God performs in order to create something new? (Statement and distinction)
- When we create something, are we making order too? Distinguishing?
- What does God say about light? (That it is good) what does this tell us about the meaning of light?
- What does light remind us of? How is light used in language? What expressions connected with light are we familiar with?

Students may be asked to draw these or other expressions associated with light.





- His eyes lit up
 - Pleasant, gracious (literally: face radiating)
 - Pleasant, bright light
 - Publish/ publisher (literally: bring to light)
 - Torah is the light
- According to these expressions, is light a positive or a negative thing?
 - Why in your opinion is light connected with positive things, with the good? With joy?

**Miracle of the Brave Heart/ Aharon
Ze'ev**

We carry our torches
in the dark nights.
The paths shine beneath our feet
and whoever has a heart
that thirsts for light –
let him lift his eyes and his heart to us
and come along!

No miracle happened for us –
no cruse of oil did we find.
We walked through the valley, ascended
the mountain.
We discovered wellsprings of hidden
light.

No miracle happened for us –
no cruse of oil did we find.
We quarried in the stone until we bled –
let there be light!





Gradually dwindling light

- Read the paragraph and explain difficult words. You may also tell it in your own words and then read.

Thus the Rabbis recited: When primitive Adam saw the day getting gradually shorter, he said: Woe is me! Perhaps I have sinned, the world around me is being darkened and returning to its state of chaos and confusion; this then is the death to which I have been sentenced from heaven!

So he began keeping an eight days' fast. But after he observed the winter equinox and noted the day getting increasingly longer, he said: This is the world's course! And he set forth to keep an eight days' festivity. In the following year he appointed both as festivals.

- Draw the story in several pictures (may divide into groups, and each group divide the steps of the story within it)
- Points for discussion
 - o The importance of light in our lives: Why is man so afraid to think the world is becoming dark forever?
 - o During the current period, when the days are short and the nights are long, we celebrate a holiday of light. What is the meaning of this?
 - o You may show or tell of similar holidays in other cultures.
 - o Why do holidays of light in a period of growing darkness appear in many different cultures? What can we learn from this?
 - o Reference to scripture:





- “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:1) – the meaning of light in times of darkness.
- “A little bit of light dispels a lot of darkness” (Chassidic proverb) – a little light in a dark room is highly significant. The property of a candle is that it is not diminished when fire is taken from it.
- Lighting the Chanukah menorah in progressively adding order – more and more light is added each day.

Festivals of light around the world – for winter travelers/ Motke’s Index, November 29, 2007

We have come to banish the darkness, but not we alone: festivals of light and fire are commonly accepted all over the world, and it appears that the message of the triumph of light over darkness is universal. And if this is also an opportunity to eat special sweets, rejoice and sing, then all the better! The following articles include several proposals for light festivals all around the world, and at different times of the year. Eight candles that serve as light trips around the world for Chanukah

Each year in May, in Gubbio, Italy, the traditional candle race is held. In this race, tens of jubilant celebrators carry three huge wooden candles on their back, and compete in running through the narrow streets of the town. Each group has its own color, costumes and songs, and it is hard to get caught up in the celebration. All this in honor of... do you know what for? It is in honor of its Patron, Saint Ubaldo.



The **Chinese** too have their own festival of lights: In autumn, at midnight, millions of families throughout China head to parks, carrying with them Chinese candles in many different colors and cakes called 'moon cakes', in memory of the ancient belief in the power of the moon. The event takes place on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese calendar. Each person is a small light, but millions of Chinese are... A huge light! In **Burma** (Myanmar) the festival of lights is celebrated in October. Then, for three nights, the entire country is lit up with oil lanterns, paper lanterns, fire balloons, and boats laden with candles to light up the entire night in shimmering light. These candles that we light... Symbolize the month in which Buddha came down to earth, with his path of descent flooded with magical light.

In **Sweden**, at the peak of winter the days are very short, but the Swedes are unshakable: On the shortest day of the year, December 13, they themselves bring the light, as they go to the streets thousands of candles in their hands. Especially brave girls, by the way, place candles in a wreath upon their head, and pass through the streets to gather sweets. It is customary to eat three breakfasts that day, to give one the strength to get through the winter.

Saint Lucia's Day is officially celebrated on December 13. This was the day of the longest night of the year, until the Gregorian calendar was instituted in 1582. In Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland it is customary to hold processions on this day. The eldest daughter marches with a wreath of candles on her head.

Although Christmas is celebrated throughout the Christian world, in Argentina and Guatemala it is an especially festive, highly illuminated event: From the ring of the church bells in the afternoon, the city becomes a scene of explosions, lights and surprises. Each celebrator tries to display his skills in fireworks, flash bombs or any other light emitting device. We have come to banish the darkness!





In **Scotland** they know how to celebrate; this is common knowledge, but do you know how the Scots fight evil spirits? The answer is: Light! On the last and first days of the year they hold torch processions at all of their national heritage sites, and the sight is spectacular. However, they do not suffice with just a flame on a stick; they like it in the form of magnificent balls of fire as well. We carry our torches, in darkest depths of night... (and balls of fire as well).

In **India**, the victory of the good against the bad is celebrated with a multitude of lights. Diwali, one of the most important festivals of the Hindu calendar, marks the return of the God Lord Rama from exile. The festival is celebrated with lots of sweets, fireworks to light up the sky, and tens of oil lamps hung in celebrators' homes. Pour in some oil, olive oil, let there be light in the home.

In October, the streets of **Berlin** are lit up with bright light in a festival of lights. Over 40 sites in the city are decorated with thousands of lamps lit at evening time, lighting up and adorning the already beautiful city. However, the festivities are more than just the colored lights: different cultural events take place throughout the night, and thus complement the experience, and make these nights an unforgettable experience. Pleasant light around us, joy to small children...





Everyone is a small light

Suggested activities

- “We have come to banish the darkness... everyone is a small light”: Pass a candle (unlit) among the children. Each child should note a point of ‘darkness’ he would like to ‘banish’. In other words, to change and fix, and points of light – areas of strength and success. Alternately, the candle may be passed around with each child noting a point of light in a friend.
- “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalms 119:105): The meaning of the expression “lamp for my feet”. Each child shall note the things that constitute a “lamp for his feet”. What are the principles of significance to us; a “lamp to our feet” in our class.
- Expressions and sayings with the words ‘light’ and ‘candle’: His eyes lit up; his candle shall cast light; pleasant, gracious (face lit up); can be fixed as long as the candle burns.

We shall then present the expressions through drawings, or ask the children to draw the saying and have their classmate guess them.

- Songs with light: Contest for finding poems with the word ‘light’.
We shall then analyze two poems: We carry out torches, we have come to banish the darkness; We shall ask:
 - o What does light symbolize in the poem?
 - o What is the role of the individual, and what is the role of the many in these songs?
What is the power of togetherness?





- Chanukah menorah of values/figures: Creating a Chanukah menorah devoted to eight values or eight significant figures (either chosen together in class or have the children prepare at home and consult their parents).

