

138 Pine Brook Road
Manalapan, New Jersey 07726

Rabbi Aaron Zisow
Rosh Kollel



P: 848.210.0023
E: kollelwmc@gmail.com

Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Oratz
Director of Development

Parshas Vayeishev

י"ט בסלו תשע"ח
December 7, 2017

The Kollel Weekly

Kindling the Lights

Rabbi Motty Braun

This coming week we will be celebrating the Holiday of Chanuka. We celebrate by kindling the Menorah, and adding a candle each night, to publicize the Miracle that happened then. Although the only oil they had to light the Menorah in the Beis Hamikdash was enough for just one day, by a miracle it burned for eight. We publicize the miracle to thank Hashem for providing us with super natural guidance.

What's uniquely intriguing, is the institution of this mitzva. In every other mitzva, we are all given equal responsibility to fulfill the mitzva properly. An individual is not given the authority to decide how he wants to perform the mitzva. But not so in The Chanuka candles. The Sages teach us that there are multiple ways to perform the mitzva. The base way is for each household to have one candle lit on each of the nights of Chanuka. The more preferred way is to have a candle lit for each person in the household. The most preferred way is to add one light with each progressing day of Chanuka. Meaning, that each person in the household lights one candle the first night, two on

the second and so on. Why is there such discretion given to each person in the performance of this mitzva as opposed to others?

An idea was one suggested that I'd like to share. The Chanuka candles were instituted as way of showing appreciation for the miracle of being saved from destruction, and for Hashem showing his special love by providing pure oil to kindle the lights of the menorah, and which lasted for much longer that naturally possible. By displaying the menorah, we are publicizing our appreciation to Hashem for the privilege in being able to be the ones that are charged with shining His light out, into an ever increasing darkened world.

However there is one very important element. We can only be thankful, to the extent that we appreciate what we were given. The more we realize how each Jew can make an extremely meaningful contribution, the more we are personally grateful for this mission. And the more we realize this, the more candles we light, to display a more personalized appreciation for a personalized miracle.

Gut Shabbos!