



# Grades 6 - 8 Pre-Holiday Family Activity

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## The #ShineALight Initiative

The #ShineALight Initiative is a national project to create a collective light of celebration spreading the Jewish joy of Chanukah and the beautiful traditions we honor in our homes with our families.

Sponsored in part by the UJA-Federation of New York, the initiative is designed as a counter-expression to antisemitism and other messages of hate acts towards Jews and Israel. The #ShineALight Initiative is leveraging education, community partnerships, workplace engagement, and advocacy among Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

The Jewish Education Project is a proud content partner of the #ShineALight Initiative and is delighted to provide these free materials to parents and other caring adults. We encourage you to utilize this education content in the week leading up to and through Chanukah (this year and in the future), and if applicable, at other times of the year.

## Parent/Adult Background Information

Judaism places significant value on the role that our elders play in our lives. Judaism obligates us to treat elders with significant dignity and care, but also to respect the knowledge and experiences they have to share with us. Review and familiarize yourself with this text from Deuteronomy 32:7. (While the translation is traditional in gender, please adapt it for your family as needed.)

### Deuteronomy 32

Remember the days of old,	7	זְכֹר יָמֹת עוֹלָם בֵּינוּ שָׁנוֹת
Consider the years of ages past;		דֶּרֶךְ (ס) שְׂאֵל אָבִיךָ וַיִּגְדֶּךָ
Ask your father, he will inform you,		זְקֵנֶיךָ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָךְ:
Your elders, they will tell you:		

During this activity, you will be working with your child to make arrangements to meet with an elderly member of your family, friendship circle or community (this can be in person or via video conferencing). You may want to even have them meet with several senior citizens in order to compare and contrast the stories and wisdom they will gather from these encounters.

[There are few items on the Supply List included below that you may need/want to purchase.]



**Social Media:** If you are comfortable, we would love for you to spread the joy your family is experiencing while participating in this activity. Please take photos and/or videos and share them to your social media platforms using the hashtag #ShineALight.



**Prep Time:** 15 minutes

**Activity Time:** 15-75 minutes



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### Supplies

*Optional: Print a copy of Deuteronomy 32:7 to share with your child.*

*Optional: Print a list of the suggested questions*

*Optional: Paper and Pen/Pencil or computer with word processing*

*Depending on the reflection tool you/your child chooses:*

- *Phone for video recording to make a Tik Tok*
- *Four 4x6 cardstock pieces, markers/colored pencils, multi-photo picture frame ([example here](#))*
- *Magnet paper ([example here](#)) and markers/colored pencils or computer/printer*
- *Blank hardbound book ([example here](#)) and pens/pencils/markers/colored pencils/crayons*



### Activity Instructions

1. Introduce your child to the text of Deuteronomy 32:7. Ask them what they think it means and how it can apply to their life today.
2. Ask them who in your circle of family, friends and larger community that they would want to sit with in order to gather some wisdom and stories from them. Make a list together and determine how you will (together) reach out and make arrangements for in person or video visits.
3. Ahead of the visits, share the list of suggested questions with your child and ask them which questions they are most interested in getting answers to. You may also want to brainstorm additional questions and record this on paper or on a word processor.

#### **Suggested Questions:**

- A. What about Judaism gives you joy? How do you share that joy with others?
- B. Share what it was like to grow up Jewish for you.
  - a. Was it in a large Jewish community or a small Jewish community?
  - b. Did you have a lot or little contact with the non-Jewish community near you? How did you view Judaism as a child?
  - c. Did your views change as you grew older? Why and in what way?
- C. Share about a time when you experienced/or heard about antisemitism.
  - a. What was your experience?
  - b. How did it affect you?
  - c. How did it affect those around you? Your community? Your country?
- D. Did you ever have someone else who wasn't Jewish stand up for you when you were faced with antisemitism? What happened? Why do you think that person stepped in?
- E. Can you share about a time where you had to choose between doing something Jewish and fitting into a non-Jewish group or setting?
  - a. Share the story.
  - b. How do you feel about it looking back?
  - c. Would you do something different if you were in the same situation today?
- F. What advice do you have for us today, knowing what you have learned over your lifetime and seeing what the world is currently like.



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### Activity Instructions, continued

4. Encourage your child to take notes or record the conversations so that they can use what they hear later in the activity.
5. Once your child has met with people you have arranged, choose one of these reflection tools to use with them to process their learning:
  - a. Have them create a Tik Tok based on the most important learning they took away from this experience.
  - b. Have them choose four of their favorite takeaways from this experience. Have them decorate a 4x6" card for each of these memories using words and/or illustrations. Place these four cards in a multi-photo frame to be displayed in your home as a reminder of the lessons learned.
  - c. Have your child design refrigerator magnets representing several pieces of wisdom they learned from their senior partner(s). If you have photos of your child and the senior person, you can include that if you are printing these magnets.
  - d. Have your child create journal entries in a blank hardbound book based on the stories they heard and the wisdom they want to take from this experience.
6. During Chanukah, after you light candles each night, reflect together on a different one of the learnings they gathered. You can also ask your child to answer the question: What about Judaism gives you joy? How do you share that joy with others?
7. Don't forget to upload photos and/or videos of this activity to your social media platforms using the hashtag #ShineALight.