



Grades K-2 Thanksgiving Shamash Activity

Created by Debra Siroka



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

The song Hineh Ma Tov is from the first verse of Psalm 133. *Hineh ma tov. Shevet achim gam yachad* which means: How good and pleasant it is for brothers & sisters to dwell together. It is often sung on Shabbat or whenever a group of people gather together. For Thanksgiving, we are using this message to celebrate being with family and friends.

Rabbi Joachim Prinz, who spoke just prior to Dr. Martin Luther King at the historic March on Washington in 1963 taught us, “neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept. It means our collective responsibility for the preservation of man’s dignity and integrity.” This passage reminds us what is important, illustrating how the term “brothers and sisters (achim)” refers to ties beyond family.

הִנֵּה מָה טוֹב וַיְמָה יַצְעִים
שֵׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם-יַחַד.

Hineh ma tov. Shevet achim gam yachad

How good and pleasant it is for brothers & sisters to dwell together.

There are few items on the Supply List (above the Activity Instructions) that you may 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: 5-15 minutes to get the supplies together and prepare your YouTube playlist

Activity Time: 20-30 minutes

Supplies

- Access to the Internet and YouTube and a digital device with sound output
- 11x14 or 8.5x11 cardstock or paper
- Markers, crayons and/or colored pencils



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Activity Instructions

1. Set up your digital device to play the playlist suggested below and/or create your own. We offer a small sampling of different versions, but there are many more. Feel free to explore and find your family favorite.
 - [Rabbi Joe Black version](#)
 - [Theodore Bikel version](#)
 - [Elana Arian version](#)
 - [Mikey Pauker version](#)
 - [Sababa version](#)
 - [Nefesh Mountain version](#)
 - [Anthony and Irene Chapman Quarantine version](#)
 - [Rick Recht version](#)
2. While listening to the various versions of Hinei Ma Tov, create placemats or place cards for all the guests at your Thanksgiving table.
 - a. Here are some placemat image ideas your child could trace or adapt freehand:
 - i. [Hodu means "Turkey" and "Give Thanks" Placemat](#)
 - ii. [I am Thankful For Placemat option 1](#)
 - iii. [I am Thankful for Placemat option 2](#)
 - iv. [Happy Family/Friends Coloring Pages](#)
 - v. [Children Playing Instruments](#)
 - vi. [Singing Together Coloring Page](#)
 - vii. [Family Dinner Coloring Page](#)
3. Include the words to the song on the placemats in Hebrew, transliteration or English.

הִנֵּה מָה טוֹב וַיְמָה נָעִים
שֵׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם-יַחַד.

Hineh ma tov. Shevet achim gam yachad

How good and pleasant it is for brothers & sisters to dwell together.
4. Don't forget to upload photos and/or videos of this activity to your social media platforms using the hashtag #ShineALight.