

The JFL Dreidel Game – Let's Spin it Up!

Have you ever anxiously watched your spinning dreidel toggle as it slowly tips over revealing the fate of your precious chocolate gelt? Well, you wouldn't be alone. This common Chanukah game has been played by Jews for centuries. It was created by Jews who secretly used the game to study Torah during a time when it was illegal under the Greek empire. Today, Dreidel can be a fun way to spend time with friends and family during the Chanukah season, but it can also be a great opportunity to educate your children about philanthropy and promote a discussion far more valuable than gelt (even the bigger pieces!).

Gimel – Give

Woohoo! You just got it all! Winning feels good, but do you know what feels even better? Giving. When you give Tzedakah you are helping someone in need. Next time you spin a gimel, think about all the things you have; clothes, food, toys, etc. and how you can make a difference for someone who may not have those things.

- Have you ever given time, money, or resources to those in need? What inspired you to give?
- How would you feel if you needed something, and someone gave it to you?
- What are some ways you can give back to the community?

Nun – Nonmonetary ways to give

In the game of Dreidel spinning a nun isn't a gain nor loss, just somewhat neutral. We can translate that as not gaining or receiving money. While donating money is a great way to help those in need, there are so many amazing ways to make a difference that don't involve money.

- Can you think of some mitzvot you can do that don't cost money?
- Is there one nonmonetary mitzvah you can plan on doing during Chanukah?
- Why is it important to spend our time helping people? What is a benefit we receive?

Hei – Help and Humble

Hey a hei! You just won half the pot! It is a win-win because you get something and there is something left for others who may be in need. Learning when to help people and be humble are important parts of philanthropy.

- What does it mean to be humble? Why is it important to be humble when doing philanthropy?
- What should we do if we see someone who needs help?
- Why should we only take what we need and consider leaving some "gelt" for others?

Shin – Share

While we might roll our eyes and wonder why the dreidel betrayed us as we reluctantly place one gelt into the pot, we can think of shin as sharing. Sometimes, we can share what we have in order to help someone else. When everyone adds just one gelt to the pot look how big it becomes! That is one impact of sharing.

- Have you ever shared something with your friend? How did it make them feel? How did it make you feel?
- Why is it important to share?
- Can you think of one way you can share something this week?

