



MRS. GREENBERG'S MESSY HANUKKAH

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While her parents are busy with errands, Rachel visits her neighbor, Mrs. Greenberg. Making latkes together, Mrs. Greenberg is exhausted and Rachel is worried about the terrible mess.

Jewish holidays are traditionally times when family and friends spend time together, sharing traditions and making memories. From start to finish, *Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah* is holiday lesson in kindness and consideration.

In this story, Rachel is eager to have family visit and enjoy the latkes she remembers from past celebrations; Mrs. Greenberg jumps at the opportunity to visit with her young neighbor; Rachel's parents don't hesitate to help clean the messy kitchen and stay to share a meal with their elderly neighbor.

In *Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah*, Jewish values shine through in so many ways—in Rachel's awareness of Mrs. Greenberg's loneliness and in Mrs. Greenberg's patience with Rachel, for example. Share with your children the ways in which your family chooses to give pleasure to others at holidays and other times—by something as simple as visiting an older person living alone, giving a gift of a plate of warm latkes to someone unable to cook for him/herself, or offering to decorate a shelter or hospital lounge for the holiday—and then involve your children by making it happen!

HANUKKAH LATKES

Most Jewish celebrations have a food component symbolic of the holiday. On *Hanukkah*, latkes and other foods cooked

in oil remind us of the tiny amount of oil that lasted eight days in the restored Temple in Jerusalem.

Recipes for *latkes* are generally simple, and may be passed down from generation to generation—some employing savory onions, others using *matzoh* meal, etc. Contemporary cooks have taken *latkes* to new levels by using less common ingredients, such as sweet potatoes or even zucchini! Commonly, latkes are served with sour cream or applesauce. Whatever your tastes and preferred ingredients, involving your children in cooking is a spectacular means of instilling wonderful and lasting holiday customs.

* The transliterated word *Hanukkah* can be spelled in many different ways—including *Chanukkah*, *Channukah*, *Chanuka*, etc. Pj

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