**Silk Roads: Exploring Faith: Singing for Hanukkah**

**Video Transcription**

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Video running time: 4 minutes 45 seconds.

Meet Alison, Léonore, Noémie and Elise. Elise is student at Durham University and a member of the Jewish Society.

Originally from Chambéry, France, Elise returned to France in 2019 to celebrate Hanukkah with her family.

In this video they share some of their family Hanukkah traditions.

**What is Hanukkah?**

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Light. It is celebrated in November or December each year and lasts for 8 days.

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of a small group of Jews called the Maccabees over the powerful Greek army over 2000 years ago. The Maccabees victory meant that Jewish people could practice their victory freely.

When the Maccabees rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem by lighting the Menorah (the ceremonial candelabra), they found there was only enough oil to burn for a single day. Miraculously, it burned for 8 days.

Since then, Jews celebrate this miracle by lighting a special candelabra called a Hanukkiah. One candle is lit at sun down for each day of the festival.

**Singing for Hanukkah**

Blessed are You, Lord our G‑d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah light.

Amen.

Blessed are You, Lord our G‑d, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time.

Amen.

O mighty stronghold of my salvation, to praise you is a delight.  
Restore my House of Prayer and there we will bring a thanksgiving offering.

When there was destruction of the blaspheming foe  
Then I shall complete with a song of hymn the dedication of the Altar.

The days of Hanukkah – the dedication of our temple  
Our hearts are filled with joy.  
Night and day our dreidels spin, and we eat lots of doughnuts.  
Shine and light up many Hanukkah lights,  
For the miracles and wonders that the Maccabees performed.

Let’s raise the banner and torch,

Together here, let’s sing the song of Hanukkah.

We are the Maccabees

Our flag is raised on high.

We fought the Greeks and victory is ours.

Flower to flower,

We will weave a great wreath

For the winner, the brave Maccabee.

Dreidel spin spin spin  
Chanukah is a nice holiday  
Chanukah is a nice holiday  
Dreidel spin spin spin

Spin, please, spin here and there  
A great miracle happened here  
A great miracle happened here  
Spin, please, spin here and there.

It's a joyous holiday for the nation  
A great miracle happened there  
A great miracle happened there  
It's a joyous holiday for the people.

I have a little dreidel  
I made it out of clay  
And when it's dry and ready  
Oh, dreidel I shall play.

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel I made it out of clay  
And when it's dry and ready  
Oh dreidel I shall, dreidel I shall, dreidel I shall play.

Thank you to Elise Dunand, Alison Wisdom, Léonore Dunand and Noémie Dunand for their help making this video.