

Name _____



Lights Of Victory

Directions: Read the passage below carefully. Highlight or underline key historical facts that explain how Hanukkah began and what it commemorates.

Over two thousand years ago, the Jewish people lived under the rule of King Antiochus IV, who tried to force them to abandon their faith and worship Greek gods. Many sacred traditions were banned, including studying the Torah and lighting the menorah in the Temple of Jerusalem. A brave group known as the Maccabees, led by Judah Maccabee, refused to give up their beliefs. They organized a small but determined army to fight back against the powerful Syrian-Greek forces.

After years of struggle, the Maccabees reclaimed the Temple. When they went to rededicate it, they found only a small jar of oil—barely enough to keep the menorah burning for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted eight full days, long enough to prepare more purified oil. This event became the foundation of Hanukkah, often called the Festival of Lights. Today, Jewish families around the world light the menorah for eight nights to remember the courage, faith, and perseverance of the Maccabees.