

Awaking Wonder

Jewish Holidays



SUKKOTH:

The Feast of Booths or The Feast of Tabernacles is celebrated by making a temporary shelter for the family to use during this weeklong celebration. The family eats meals in it and some sleep in it. Make a fort outside, pack a picnic lunch, and read Deut. 16:13-14, Lev. 23:39-43, and Gen. 33:17 with your children.

The Festival of Lights is celebrated over 8 nights. At sunset each night, a candle is lit on a menorah--a 9-candle candelabra. It celebrates a rededication of the temple after a revolt against the Greeks. There was only enough oil to light the lamp in the temple for 1 day, but it lasted for 8 days. Food fried in oil like latkes are eaten, and children play dreidel.



HANUKKAH:

PURIM:

At Purim, the rabbi reads the book of Esther in Hebrew--the whole megillah. When Haman's name is read, the people boo and spin groggers. Read Esther with your children, and let them use noise makers when Haman's name is read. Make hamentashen (Haman's Ears) for a sweet treat.

PASSOVER:



Passover celebrates the Israelites safely escaping from Egypt. Read Exodus chapters 1-13 with your children. The plagues show God's power over the false gods of the Egyptians. If you have an opportunity, attend a Seder dinner or plan one with friends. Unleavened bread called matzoh and other symbolic foods are eaten to remember God's faithfulness.