

The left–right Chanukah story

Sit in a circle. One person holds a wrapped present. Read the story out loud: every time you hear LEFT, pass the present to the left. Every time you hear RIGHT, pass it to the right!

On the first night of Chanukah, Shira went **RIGHT** into the kitchen to help Ima. “Is there any oil **LEFT?**” asked Ima. Shira looked in the cupboard on the **RIGHT**, then in the cupboard on the **LEFT**. “Only one little bottle,” she said. “That’s all **RIGHT,**” smiled Ima. “One little jug of oil lasted eight days in the Beis HaMikdash!”

They grated the potatoes **RIGHT** away. Shira held the bowl in her **LEFT** hand and stirred with her **RIGHT**. The first latkes went **RIGHT** into the pan. Sizzle! Then the doorbell rang. Shira **LEFT** the spoon on the counter and ran to the door. Bubby and Zeidy came in with a big box of doughnuts. “We **LEFT** room in the car just for these!” laughed Zeidy.

Everyone gathered by the window. Abba lit the shamash. “Where does the first candle go?” asked Shira. “On the **RIGHT,**” said Abba, “and every night we add one more to the **LEFT.**” They sang Maoz Tzur **RIGHT** to the end.

Soon there was not one latke **LEFT**, and not one doughnut **LEFT** either! “I think we did everything **RIGHT** tonight,” said Shira. And whoever is holding the present **RIGHT** now... gets to keep it! Freilichen Chanukah!