

**Chanukah Assembly**  
**15mins**

1) Begin by reading the following story. This can also be performed by pupils as a play.

This is a story about a man named Judah. One day, in Judah's town there was a great flood. As the flood waters rose, Judah sat on the front porch of his house. A lady in a row boat came by. The lady in the row boat said to Judah "come on - don't you know, a big flood is coming, get in my boat and I will row you to safety". Judah, still sitting on this porch replied "no thank you, I have faith in God and I will wait for Him to save me." So the lady in the row boat rowed by.

The flood waters continued to rise even higher, and soon Judah had to go to the second floor of his house. As he stared out of his top floor window he noticed a man in a motor boat. The man in the boat shouted up to Judah "hey, you there - come down and get in my boat, I have come to rescue you". "No thank you", said Judah, "I have faith in God and I will wait for Him to save me."

The flood waters kept rising. Pretty soon they were so high that Judah had to stand on his roof. Up above he spotted a helicopter. The pilot lowered down a rope and yelled "Hey, climb up the rope, I have come to rescue you!" "No!" yelled Judah, "I have faith in God and am waiting for him to rescue me."

The flood waters kept rising and poor Judah drowned. When Judah got to heaven, he asked God where he went wrong. He said, "I had perfect faith in You, but you let me drown, why didn't you rescue me?" God replied, "What more do you want from me? I sent you two boats and a helicopter."

2) Ask pupils;

- What does this story teach us?  
Take two or three responses.

*This story teaches us that we have to be proactive, not to wait for miracles but to create change for ourselves. G-D has provided us with the tools we need to help ourselves.*

- How is Judah in this story different from Judah in the Chanukah Story?

Judah Ha Maccabee didn't wait for G-D to send a miracle, he used his faith and created his own miracle and managed to defeat the mighty Greek army.

- Has anyone seen on the news or read in the papers recently about floods happening not only here in the UK, but also abroad in places like India. Ask for a show on hands.
- Can anybody tell me one of the reasons that many scientists think we are having these floods?

*Climate Change - see attached information and relay some basic facts to the assembly. This resource can also be handed out to pupils.*

**Read the following text;**

*"God led Adam around all the trees of the Garden of Eden. And God said to Adam: 'See My works, how good and praiseworthy they are?! And all that I have created, I made for you. [But,] be mindful then that you do not spoil and destroy My world - for if you spoil it, there is no one after you to repair it.'" (Midrash Qohelet Rabbah 7:13; ca. 8th Century C.E.)*

3) So, with this in mind, let's think of the ways we can be a modern-day Maccabee and help fight against climate change.

- Split the assembly down the middle and create two teams; The Greeks and The Hasmoneans.

Feel free at this point to explain that this was the real surname of the Maccabee family (Maccabee was a nickname - it is an acronym of Mi Kamocha Ba'eilim Hashem, a phrase from Psalms which shows the Maccabee's faith in G-d and it also means hammer, because that is how they attacked the Greeks, in short, sharp guerrilla warfare)

- Each team must come up with as many ways as possible that they know will help save energy and slow down the effects of climate change. Keep score and announce the winning team at the end.

4) Thank pupils for their input and ask them over the next 8 days of Chanukah to think about the ways they can save their energy use and help towards climate change.

**Following the assembly;**

Either as homework or in the classroom ask pupils to fill out the Tzedek Chanukah Worksheet highlighting all the ways that they can help reduce energy and look after their environment.

Finished Chanukiot can form a display in the school.

If you would like to explore this issue further in your school, and in particular to explore these issues through Jewish texts then please contact [vikki@tzedek.org.uk](mailto:vikki@tzedek.org.uk).